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P L A I S T E R E R ' s B I L L ,
F O R
W O R K S D O N E A T T H E N E W B U I L D I N G S ,
S O M E R S E T - H O U S E , i n t h e S T R A N D ,

B Y T H E L A T E
M r . T H O M A S C L A R K , a n d h i s s u r v i v i n g P a r t n e r
C H A R L E S C L A R K E , P l a i s t e r e r ;

With the PRIME COST of completing the said WORKS, as sworn to before a Magistrate by one of their Clerks; with cogent Remarks, setting forth the Reasonableness of their CHARGE, and proving how *erroneously* the Prices of the several Articles have been reduced to a Sum less than the Prime Cost, by the Person to whom the Consideration and Settlement was assigned.

Together with the VALUATION of the said WORKS, by Six of the first and most reputable Masters in the Trade, of approved Abilities; producing upon the Whole a greater Sum than Mr. Clarke's original Charge.

This will be found of Use to the SURVEYOR, MEASURER, and particularly the YOUNG PLAISTERER, who may not be altogether so well acquainted with the Value of his Works, and who will here find most Articles that can arise in his Business; with Observations on the same.

The whole respectfully submitted to the candid PUBLIC, but particularly to the MASTER PLAISTERERS of *London and Westminster*.

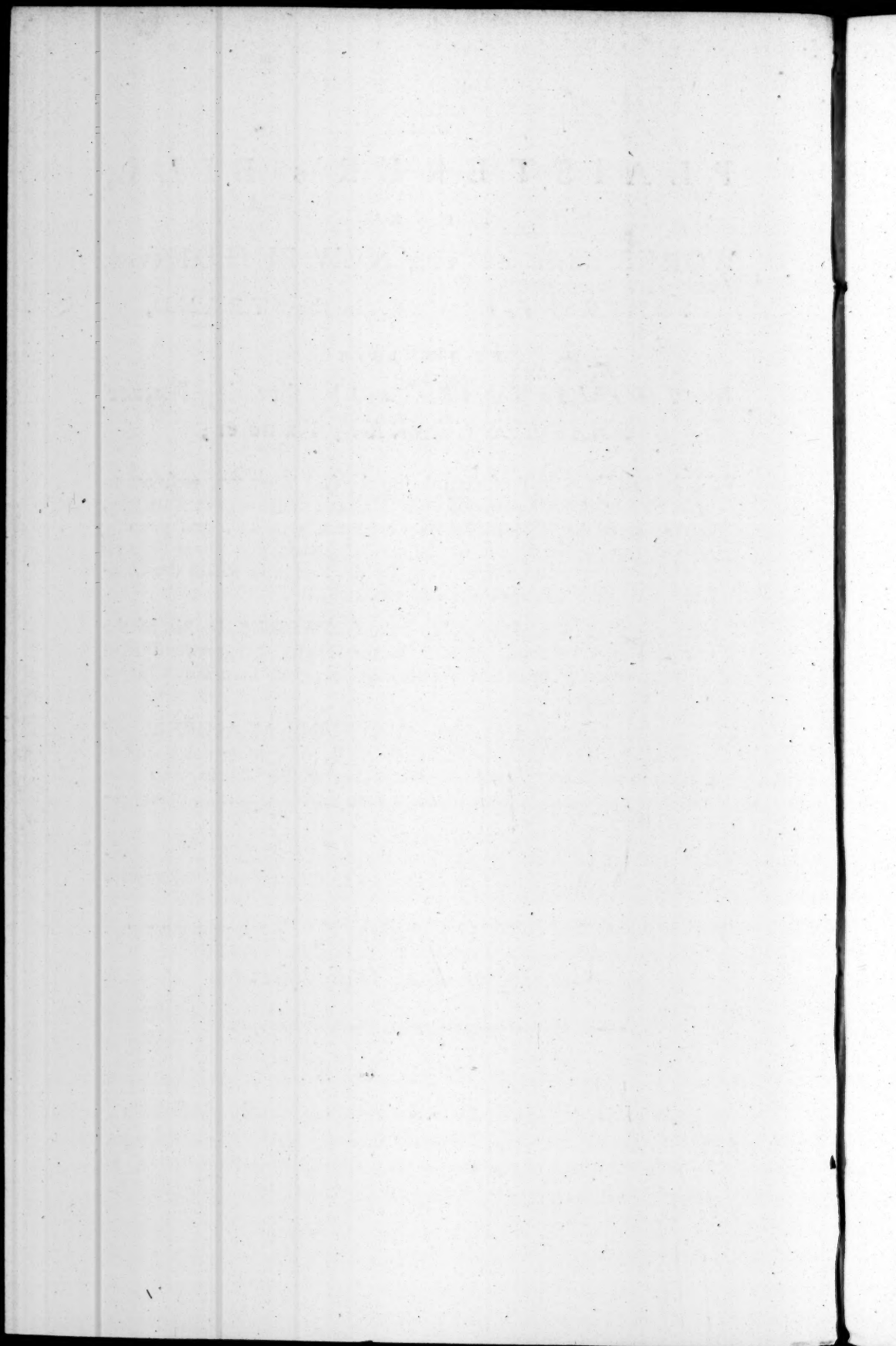
B y C H A R L E S C L A R K E , P L A I S T E R E R ,
O f M i l l b a n k - R o w , W e s t m i n s t e r .

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR, by T. BENSLEY, *Swan-Yard, Strand*;
And sold by H. SHARP, opposite *Somerset-House New-Buildings, Strand*; RICHARDSON and URQUHART, *Royal-Exchange*; I. TAYLOR, opposite *Great Turnstile, Holborn*; and H. JACKSON, Senior, near *Orchard Street, Oxford-Road*.

[PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.]

MDCCLXXXIII.



INTRODUCTION.

GENTLEMEN,

IT must be acknowledged that the intent of pursuing business is profit, the means of acquiring employment, integrity and abilities; and it will appear very severe, if, possessed of the two latter, any artist should be deprived of the end of his labours by unfair means, whether occasioned by injustice or injudicious opinions.

The reason therefore of publishing the following bill, with the particulars of the plaisterer's work done at Somerset-House New Buildings, that part which is appropriated to the use of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and the several apartments for the Hackney Coach-Office, under the direction of Sir *Wm. Chambers*, Architect, is to shew that I at present feel the weight of such severity, in consequence of the prices being reduced by Mr. *Paine*, of *Salisbury-Street*, Architect; as specified in the margin of the bill. Nor is the pecuniary loss sustained by such a reduction the only cruelty tradesmen experience; character too, materially, though innocently, suffers;

suffers; and those who have laboured to conduct themselves through every department of their profession with ingenuoufness and honesty, receive a stigma, instead of that approbation they really merit.

In order therefore to convince the public that I do by no means deserve the imputation, which I am fearful a tacit acquiescence in the present case might favour, it will not, I flatter myself, be thought foreign to the purpose, if I crave the indulgence of the reader in attending to a short narrative of my conduct, during my servitude and commercial connections, that my character may appear in its proper light, and shew how improbable it is, that I should be guilty of attempting to commit so great a fraud upon my employers, as an overcharge of One Hundred and Ninety Pounds would naturally induce them to believe: and then demonstrate, how inconsiderately, not to say worse, these prices are reduced, by giving the prime cost of several of the articles, as well as the valuation of six reputable masters of the most approved abilities, respecting the subject.

First then; After serving my apprenticeship to a Master Plaisterer, free of the city of *London*, I was employed by Mr. *Thomas Clark* as his Clerk and Measurer, and at leisure times worked at the plaistering business as journeyman; in his employ I continued till an offer was made me, by which I was induced to change my situation, with Mr. *Thomas Clark's* consent, and good wishes for my success. This removal was to Mr. *Bever*, at the Repository in *St. Martin's-Lane*. This particular I mention, because I was there well known

known to several noblemen, gentlemen, and others; and acted as his Clerk. I had great concerns committed to my care, gave the closest attention to business for upwards of fifteen years, and preserved, during that period, a fair and honest character. His service I, at my own request, quitted, in order to retire upon a little fortune left me by one of my friends.

A friendly correspondence had always subsisted with *Mr. Thomas Clark*; and when he understood I was separating from *Mr. Bever*, he generously proposed a partnership without any gratuity, conditionally; that I should take the principal share in conducting the business: I accepted the proposal with pleasure; soon after which *Mr. Bever* made me a similar offer, but as I had then settled with *Mr. Clark*, I could not with honour retract. It is now more than ten years since the commencement of our partnership, and to the day of his death, which unfortunately happened before these works at Somerset-House were finished, we lived in habits of perfect unanimity, my conduct in business ever receiving his approbation: and it gives me no small pleasure to add, that I am at this time happy enough also to share *Mr. Bever's* regard; who, having experienced my diligence and honesty in his service, is ready to speak of me as industry and integrity deserve; besides, my character, as an honest man, has through life been unimpeached. These circumstances afford no weak proof, that I was not likely to descend to any baseness for the sake of my own private emolument, and would be satisfactory to an unprejudiced mind.

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But it may be urged by many, who have more cunning than candour in their composition, that errors like these may arise from ignorance as well as dishonesty; and they only meant to correct those faults established by too long custom. To this I shall beg leave to answer; that my attention to, and experience in, the business of plaisterer, having the approbation and sanction of Mr. *Thomas Clark*, one of the most skilful masters in the trade, bespeak neither want of abilities, nor knowledge; nor any deficiency in those necessary principles, in order to become qualified for valuing work done in my line. I wish the same could be said of those who have curtailed the annexed bill; a more equitable determination would have presented itself to our view, and I should have escaped those uneasy sensations which injustice has liberally bestowed, as well as avoided that loss of property, which in the course of this work I have undertaken to prove incontrovertibly.

As this is a public concern, and there being strong reasons to suppose an intent of establishing these reduced prices as precedents, I have taken the more pains to demonstrate the reasonableness of my charges: for which purpose the prime cost has been taken out of my books, the amount of which is inserted at the end of the bill, and sworn to before a magistrate by the clerk particularly employed to look after the work, and keep that account whilst the business was going on. The very moderate profit we expected to have made, had the whole of our bill been allowed, will appear; especially when it is considered that Mr. *Thomas Clark* and myself

myself gave up the greatest part of our time in conducting it.

It cannot be thought unreasonable for a master to be allowed 30*l.* for every 100*l.* he lays out, his own attendance included; instead of which, our charges have not produced 15*l.* for every 100*l.* nevertheless, *Mr. Paine* has reduced the whole to a sum less than the cost. So extraordinary does such a deduction appear, that it scarce seems creditable,—and perhaps may by some be thought not strictly true. To obviate, therefore, every possible objection, as far as in my power, that it might not be conjectured I had made use of any chicane in forming my bill, and totally to get the better of those ungenerous surmises, too often formed by the disingenuous for unworthy purposes; that the charges might be proved fair and equitable; since *Mr. Paine* reduced my bill, I applied to six of the most experienced and reputable masters in the trade, men distinguished for their abilities in their profession, and approved for impartiality and ingenuofness, to inspect the works; who have declared them as well executed as possible; and after minutely examining every article separately, their judgements coinciding in the valuation, have produced a sum exceeding that of my charge;* nevertheless, my applications to *Sir Wm. Chambers* and *Mr. Paine* have been disregarded. However, notwithstanding I am deprived of equity, the undoubted right of every man, it gives me some consolation, that the determination of so many able artificers more than corroborates my demand; and
though

* See the end of the bill.

though it appears I am likely to become a sufferer in this business, yet it must remove the censure of imposition, which Mr. *Paine's* accusation, so I term it, would fix upon me. From Mr. *Paine's* decision in this matter, it appears as if he was determined, right or wrong, to take off something from each article out of the common run; and indeed so clearly do his actions shew this to be his plan, that I am almost fully persuaded, that if sixpence *per* foot had been charged for what cost one shilling, there must have been a deduction.

It can scarce remain a doubt to those who will permit themselves to have one moment's reflection, that Mr. *Paine* was but possessed of one idea, when he undertook the task of examining the bills, with respect to the tradesmen's profits; though perhaps a more interested one to himself. In the first instance, it appears, *reduction* only occupied his mind — in the second, it is probable, he took a side look at the establishment of the new Board of Works, and thought it convenient to play this unfair game, to shew the absolute necessity of employing such people, as a check upon those who executed the business.

However, be that as it may — in order to do justice, a different mode from what Mr. *Paine* adopted should always be pursued, where any imposition in complicated works is suspected. The master's charges should be kept secret from the surveyor's; they ought, during inspection, to fix on a blank bill the prices consistent with the nature of the separate works, so as to leave a reasonable profit, and then compare the two charges
together.

together; not curtail the master's account, on a supposition that a given profit was always charged, in proportion to the money expended; for this scheme is full of absurdity, and very often, as in the present case, of injustice. One or two instances I shall take the liberty of relating, as they shew, beyond all doubt, how erroneously and injuriously men often act who proceed in this method.

A gentleman of fashion and fortune, having had his country house repaired, without the assistance of a surveyor; when the bills were delivered in, thought the sum exorbitant, and sent them to one remarkable for reduction to be examined: after they had been in his possession for a long time, with intent to give the appearance of attention and perspicuity, to the great disappointment of the tradesmen who wanted their money, they were returned, ALL reduced. The gentleman imagining he was imposed upon, summoned the tradesmen to attend for payment, determined never to employ them more.

The carpenter, who had long been engaged in the family, and always thought an honest man, was told that he had imposed upon him more than 30*l.* and that he must have robbed him considerably in the course of all the business he had at various times done for him, from his own neglect in not employing such a gentleman to inspect his work and bills; and withal, that he should not only be discharged, but that his intentions were to have recommended him to the Lord Chancellor, who was going to build in the neighbourhood, though now all favours from him must for ever cease.—

The carpenter, much chagrined at the severity of the lecture, though unmerited, confessed the multiplicity of his obligations, defended in humble terms his own innocence, and declared, the surveyor had reduced his bill without either judgment or reason, as he had not entered into the merits of the separate charges, but taken off a sum at random; notwithstanding which he consented to accept what was offered, depending on time for his exculpation. The bricklayer, the mason, plaisterer, painter, &c. all experienced the same fate for their supposed impositions; at last came the smith, who had married a servant of the family, whom he thus addressed; "As for you, whom I have been the making
 " of, by setting you up in business, and frequently assisting you, on account of that industrious honest workman, your wife; for you to impose upon me, by
 " charging 3*l.* 5*s.* more than you ought, in so small a bill, your ingratitude shocks me."—It must be observed, that the smith was only an indifferent scribe, and worse accountant; and it being customary among some to write an unit with a cypher before it thus, 02, the smith, merely from ignorance, placed the cypher beyond it, thus, 20, consequently his bill, which was 02*l.* 19*s.* appeared 20*l.* 19*s.* The poor smith, affrightened at the gentleman's anger, putting his hand into his pocket, produced six shillings, and made an offer of them, saying, "He was very sorry he had offended
 " so good a friend, but it was the first jobb he ever did
 " where he had money to pay for doing the work." The gentleman, struck with surprize at his behaviour,
 asked

asked him to explain himself; he answered, whatever mistake might appear in the bill, he meant it only for 2*l.* 19*s.* obvious from the nature and quantity of the work. From hence the surveyor's method of examination was instantly discovered, and his manner of reducing them was seen; right, or wrong; agreeable only to the supposed charge.—The gentleman had therefore the goodness to recall the tradesmen, pay each his full demand, apologize for his treatment of them, promise to employ them in future, and assured them, that if ever he found a necessity for a surveyor on the like occasion, he would endeavour to find an intelligent judge of works, as well as a more conscientious and candid man.

A second was a circumstance which happened to myself, of nearly the same nature.

Some years ago I was employed to do the plaistering work of a gentleman's house in the country, under the direction of an architect and surveyor, at labour prices, *i. e.* I found no materials. Every thing went on well, the business was executed to their satisfaction, and the works were measured up by the surveyor and myself. I would have priced with him, but he candidly acknowledged that he was not sufficiently acquainted with the value of plaisterer's ornamental work; he therefore left it to me, and desired I would be as moderate as possible in the charges I affixed. I accordingly was so, and my bill's amount was between four and five hundred pounds.

Some time after, the surveyor thought proper to take off 30*l.* I objected to it, and after some altercation, it was agreed to be left to reference: accordingly, two

master plaisterers, of experience, judgment, and integrity, examined the works, and fixed prices on a blank bill to every article on the spot; the result of which was, they allowed me upwards of 15*l.* more than my charge, which made 45*l.* more than the sum the surveyor had reduced my bill to; still, at his request, I did not insist on the sum the work was valued to, but received the money for my bill which I first gave in. For this compliance to the surveyor's request, and the *heinous* offence of doing myself justice in opposition to his judgment, he never after employed me.

If we were to reason from the two cases before recited, it would strike us with no small astonishment, when we began to consider, why some surveyors, who must be conscious of their own insufficiency, should run the risk of losing their characters, and injuring others, by interfering in matters they were inadequate to, since they must be liable to detection, and having their ignorance exposed by a very slight investigation; but in pursuing the subject a little further, all wonder will cease; for we shall find love of consequence is the darling foible, and, in order to preserve that, they supply the place of true knowledge by presumption; to support which they make use of every unfair means, to blind, or please those, from whom they derive their power. Hence, having caught hold of the notion of general allowed profits, ratified by custom, instead of surveying the work done, only survey the price charged, then pompously, as well as ignorantly, pronounce on the merits or demerits of what they do not understand.

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I have known a surveyor, upon a supposition of the plaisterer's business being uncommonly profitable, patronize a journeyman, who has been totally unacquainted with the value of his works, give him employment, which, when finished, the surveyor has measured, and made up the bill with prices to those separate articles, out of the common run, according to his own erroneous judgment; some he has valued too high, others considerably too low; the journeyman, however, upon the whole, finding the amount of his bill pays him better than if he had continued in his former state, and looking forward for future favours from his patron, rests satisfied, and, not knowing the proper value of his own works, concludes that the prices are just; these upon future occasions are produced, and established by the surveyor as precedents.

Precedents raised from such a basis should by no means become general, as they are calculated to injure industry, and give a consequence to ignorance; which must ever be hurtful to the individual, who unfortunately becomes the object of its pretended enquiry.

The certainty that no surveyor can be so proper a judge of plaisterer's ornamental works, as the practical workman, will enforce the objections already advanced; for the judgment must in a great measure be guided by the prime cost of the particular articles made use of, which often are fluctuating; therefore no regular or invariable price can be fixed on, much depending upon particular circumstances, known only to those conversant in the executive part. I have therefore been particular

ticular in my remarks on some of the articles of the bill, producing the prime cost to each separately, by which the want of real knowledge in the reducer or reducers will evidently appear; pointing out also some inconsistencies, glaringly conspicuous, where they have fixed different prices upon works of the very same quality; upon the whole, allowing me less money, as attested by oath, than the prime cost.

Seeing then how injudicious, and very often how inequitable, the plan adopted by such surveyors, in valuing the ornamental works done by plaisterers, must necessarily be, it would be well worthy attention to contrive some mode by which the numberless inconveniencies might be remedied. To attain the end desired, I would recommend to all masters (in those articles of the business, especially out of the common routine, and more particularly where disputes are likely to arise) to keep a regular account of the prime cost of every such separate article, and make his charge accordingly. Though the equity of this method might not be regarded by those surveyors who (to shew their employers how useful they are) make a point of curtailing bills, it would be satisfactory to himself, and answer the best purposes, provided he was obliged to have recourse to law for redress. — Nor would it be useless for tradesmen in the building branch to form themselves into a society, consisting of three or more members in each department, men of acknowledged abilities in their profession, who have at an early period of life been workmen, and have given the necessary attention to make themselves acquainted with
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the true value of their works. After such an association was framed, then, by advertisement, or otherwise, they should make their intent public, of giving their joint opinions to any tradesmen, who believed themselves injured by a surveyor's reducing their bills.

A society of this sort would certainly be of no small advantage to the community, not only as a preventive remedy against the evil complained of, but also a security to the employer, against imposition of the trades herein united, as they might be considered as referees in all cases of controversy, where their knowledge would be competent to judge of, and their integrity to settle equitably, any matters which might come before them. Though I have here deviated a little from the question, I hope the digression will not be thought frivolous, as it may supply a hint to those blessed with superior capacities to improve upon. — I shall now return to the more immediate subject of the present work.

As the common profit allowed to tradesmen is 30*l.* for the laying out every 100*l.* it may be asked, Why our original charge left us not 15*l.* in the given sum? To which I reply — We laboured under many uncommon and illiberal oppressions, which I shall endeavour to point out in the following order.

First—Many advantages were taken from us in measuring up our works, and some unusual methods introduced to our detriment, of which, as was very natural, complaint was made, but to no purpose; the constant answer was; it was Sir *William's* orders.

Secondly

Secondly—We were not permitted to make any charge for erecting and striking scaffolding to those lofty rooms, the wages we therefore paid our men, on that account, were totally lost to us: neither were we allowed any thing, heretofore ever customary, for carting some scores of loads of materials, with scaffolds, &c. &c. These were heavy draw-backs; for a horse could not be hired for this business at less than five shillings, a man to drive than two shillings, *per day*, exclusive of the unavoidable damage the carriage would sustain.

Thirdly—Having received an order from Sir *William*, to admit our men, working at Somerset-House and other places, some at the Tower, and the King's-Bench Buildings, St. George's Fields, that were able to bear arms, to attend a serjeant twice a week, and sometimes oftener, for a long continuance, from three o'clock in the afternoon till seven, for the purpose of learning military exercise; for which time we had also orders to pay them the same wages as if in our employ, and we were then told, we should be reimbursed: the payment, however, is now refused, and we are given to understand, that it must fall upon ourselves.

Fourthly—Sir *William* has thought proper to deduct $2\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* out of the money (for which we gave receipts) that has been advanced on account of business done; the amount of which is 29*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* (though not from Mr. *Collins*.) By what authority he has done this, I cannot learn; wherever it originated, it cannot be considered otherwise than unjust; I never met with it before in the course of business; perhaps it may be usual,

usual, though I do but conjecture, to allow foreigners greater emoluments and privileges than men of our own kingdom.

Fifthly—Between eight and nine hundred pounds were laid out before we received a shilling on account, and then, twelve months having elapsed, only 400*l.* out of which we see Sir *William* palms 10*l.* Had a master, young in business, felt the avaritious gripe, &c. &c. ruin must have been the consequence.

Sixthly—Not having regular drawings for the principal ceilings, in order to set out our work at one view; we received them only by parts, and pieces, and at such long intervals, that those ceilings, and particularly the sides of the anti-room, became almost white-dry, before we could get our ornaments and other works finished, which consequently took more time than would otherwise have been required, and rendered it scarcely possible for the work to turn out so well as we could have wished, and would have been the case without these impediments.

Seventhly—Sir *William* directed Mr. *Collins*'s workmen, (the plaisterer who did the other part of this building, now finished) to model for our works, under the stale pretence of his being more used to Sir *William*'s manner; so that we had a cast only from Mr. *Collins*, the expence of which was greater than if we had modelled them ourselves, by having them to sharpen up with carver's tools, then to make moulds, besides paying the bill for modelling:—likewise we were under the necessity, by Sir *William*'s order, to admit Mr. *Collins*'s men, at 7*s.* per day each, charged to us,* to work patterns by hand in the several

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ceilings,

* I am allowed only 6*s.* per day for such workmen. See the day account in my bill.

ceilings, &c. for our workmen to follow, which consequently was a waste of time, our men being obliged to go backwards and forwards to imitate such works; though it was well known our workmen were in no respect inferior.

Eighthly—Mr. *Thomas Clark*, my late partner, being the King's patent plaisterer, had always been employed to do all public works under government; but Mr. *Collins* having been concerned with Sir *William* in several other buildings; Sir *William* told Mr. *Thomas Clark* he must take in his friend Mr. *Collins* to do a part of the plaistering in this building; that he would endeavour to divide it equally between them; how equally, the sums of the bills will shew—Mr. *Collins's* being about 2000*l.* our's, reduced, 1170*l.* 19*s.* 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* about 30*l.* less than our real cost, exclusive of Sir *William's* draw-backs, and those *compulsive entertainments* for his clerks, dinners, &c. on the several days the works were measuring up, abstracting and making out the bill.

Ninthly—The great care and attention we observed in executing our works extraordinarily neat, and clean, so that nothing of the kind should exceed it, has been universally acknowledged, and will appear to every one who will give themselves the trouble of examining it—nevertheless, Sir *William* was ever ready to censure us, if the the most trifling occasion offered. Some things I mention to shew Sir *William's* uncandid partiality, which will appear too conspicuous when, to what I have already said, it is known that in that part of our works we were obliged to imitate Mr. *Collins's*, where
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the enrichments were inverted, *i. e.* the wrong end uppermost; — but because Mr. *Collins's* were so, we were forced to follow the example; — which may now be seen in the anti-room ceiling, adjoining the Antiquarian Society's meeting room.

As I should be sorry to draw conclusions to the detriment of any character, however situated in life, unless deduced from principles of truth, and maintained by the strictest honour — I shall submit it to the candid to determine, whether, upon the whole, from what has been advanced already, we have been treated with that common justice requisite in dealings of man with man; whether we have not the strongest reasons for complaint; and whether, in vindication of myself, I am not justifiable in my present publication — nay, I might have asked, whether it was not, circumstanced as I am, unavoidable. — For my own part, upon the most deliberate reflection, whatever point of view I turn it to, I cannot help concluding my right indisputably established. — But perhaps it will appear more forcibly confirmed, when the effect of my application to Sir *William Chambers* and Mr. *Paine* is recited, which I shall now take the liberty of producing. — And, in order that I may act in conformity to the strictest justice, I shall relate the transactions, which passed between us in this business, with the nicest exactitude.

The works being all finished by December, 1780, I received the following note, dated Nov. 6th, 1782. Somerset-House.

C O P Y.

SIR *William Chambers* desires Mr. *Clarke* would attend at his office at *Somerfet-House*, on Friday morning next, (*being the 8th*) at half past eleven o'clock, to examine the prices of his bill done at *Somerfet-House*, as passed by Mr. *Paine*.

Mr. CHARLES CLARKE,
Millbank-Row, Westminster.

I accordingly went, took the prices into my ledger against the separate articles, as shewn in the margin of the bill under the head of prices reduced by Mr. *Paine*; and immediately entered upon adding my remarks, that they might be laid before Sir *William*; where every error would, I concluded, have been rectified, and Sir *William* rendered happy, in having an opportunity of giving such redress, as equity would, had he chosen to open his eyes, infallibly point out to him:—but before I had completed my observations, I received another note from one of Sir *William's* clerks, dated Nov. 14th, 1782. *Somerfet-House*.

C O P Y.

SIR,

YOU are desired to attend at the Royal Academy at *Somerfet-House*, to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, to be present at the final settlement of your bill for that place.

I am, Sir,

Mr. CHARLES CLARKE,
Millbank-Row, Westminster,

Your humble servant,

R. BROWNE.

The

The time allowed me being too short, I was not prepared, therefore I wrote the following answer.

C O P Y.

SIR WILLIAM,

Accompting-House, St. John's Church-Yard, Westminster, Nov. 14, 1782.

I HAVE just now received a note from Mr. *Browne*, to attend at the Royal Academy, Somerset-House, to-morrow morning, ten o'clock, to be present at the final settlement of mine and the late Mr. *Clark*'s bill for work done there; in answer to which I beg leave to say, that the prices which are said to be passed by Mr. *Paine* (in a former note I received) are so unjust, and inadequate to the performance of such works, that I see little probability of expecting proper redress by my attendance there, though there are some of the articles that are so unreasonably reduced; that I can particularly point out, that the cost is more than the produce, and must ever be the case with some of them at such reduced prices; which I do suppose may appear so plain, that I might be redressed in such articles; but upon the face of the whole, I cannot better satisfy Sir *William* of the reasonableness of my bill, than to produce upon oath the neat cost of all our works in that building, which I am getting forward with as much expedition as the nature of that business will admit of; our books will produce likewise, the neat time to every separate article of ornaments; which shall be brought forth,

forth, if required. — I am, with all due respect to Sir *William* and the other gentlemen,

their most obedient humble servant,

CHARLES CLARKE.

P. S. I am willing to leave this business to equitable reference.

When the clerk, who had kept the account of the prime cost, had taken the whole carefully out of our books, I went with him to a magistrate, before whom he made an affidavit of it's truth and correctness, as far as with certainty could be come at; I had likewise made my remarks upon the incorrectness of the reduced prices; after which I waited upon Sir *William*, and specified some of the articles, that had been considered, if at all, most absurdly, *viz.*

One of 91 feet of mouldings, one inch girt, that had 60 joints or mitres put to by hand, reduced to one penny *per* foot only; a moulding of the same girt, at another place, with only four joints or mitres put to, was reduced at 1½*d.* For single quirks, that required considerable less time in working, 1*d.* was allowed. I told Sir *William*, that so far from these articles having been examined with any degree of judgment, it was plain their merits had not been properly entered into; and begged therefore that he would review the business, that I might be relieved; there was no other person to apply to; the works were done under his direction, and he gave the orders in general for them. — His answer was, “ I am but one,
“ I can

“ I can do nothing of myself — the Lords of the Treasury have appointed Mr. *Paine* to this business. —
 “ But have you seen the prices since they have been
 “ reconsidered and altered, they have been made
 “ better? — Go to my accounting-house, at Somerset-
 “ house, and examine them.” — I went accordingly, and
 found some of the articles had been added to in price,
 as taken notice of in the margin of the bill under the
 head of prices reduced by Mr. *Paine*, which alteration
 made an increase of about 10*l.* — In what proportion
 were my grievances redressed?

This trifle was rather an insult than an alleviation —
 for it must be remembered the sum deducted was near
 200*l.* — It can be no unfair question to ask here — If
 the judgment of this gentleman had been right, when
 he first reduced my prices, why should some alterations
 have been made, so as to make any addition to my al-
 lowed charge, as he had not then seen the remarks
 which I had placed to my bill? — I can assign but one
 reason — Conscious of the general inequity, he was
 aware, I presume; that, as they stood after his reduc-
 tion, the errors were too glaring to escape common ob-
 servation, and therefore thought it necessary to keep up
 some appearance of justice.

But to proceed — After this, I wrote to Sir *William*,
 and Mr. *Paine*, the following letters —

A Copy

A Copy of a Letter wrote to *Sir William Chambers*.

SIR WILLIAM,

I HAVE, according to your direction, taken from the book at the accompting-house at Somerfet-House, the prices as altered from those I was first ordered to attend to see, and find the increase is about 10*l.* still there appears, upon the face of the whole, 181*l.* 11*s.* 8¼*d.* taken from our bill, (beside the military exercise bill:)—I must beg *Sir William* you will, for the sake of justice, and your own reputation, enter more particularly into the merits of our charge: I am now ready to attend, to explain wherein several of these reduced prices have not been attentively considered; I have the particulars of the prime cost to several of the articles of ornaments, and can shew, that you allow me less money than the workman's wages in doing the same, exclusive of materials, with labourer and boy's time; besides, upon the face of the whole, our profit will appear to be so small, that it will be doing us a great piece of injustice to take off one shilling. The prime cost as sworn to (the copy of the affidavit is inclosed) amounts to 1094*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* beside *Mr. Thomas Clark's* and my time in attending and conducting this business; interest of money, three clerks doing business relating to the works; use and waste of scaffold, &c. Waste of wax for moulds, labourers time at our yard packing and sending off materials; for all which, as we could not ascertain the exact cost, we have omitted making any addi-

addition to the said sum of 1094*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* but leave Sir *William* to judge how much more ought to be added to that sum. — How unjust then will it be to reduce our bill to a less sum than the cost, which I can make appear by proper evidence. I will apply to Mr. *Paine*, and hope he will, with Sir *William*, appoint a meeting, and suffer me to attend to be examined particularly into this business. I am, with due respect,

Sir *William*,

your most obedient humble servant,

December 7, 1782.
Millbank-Row, Westminster.

CHARLES CLARKE.

N. B. A copy of the affidavit was inclosed in this letter, and directed to the Honourable Sir *William Chambers*, No. 13, Berner-Street, Oxford-Street; and delivered by one of my men.

A Copy of a Letter wrote to Mr. *Paine*.

SIR,

I AM informed, that you have been appointed to assist Sir *William Chambers* in examining the tradesmen's bills, for work done at Somers-House, and find you have reduced our bill 181*l.* 11*s.* 8¼*d.* I must beg, Sir, you will, for your reputation's sake, enter more particularly into the merits of the separate articles. I am ready now to attend, to explain wherein several of the reduced prices are not attentively considered; I have the particulars of the prime cost, wherein it will appear, you have allowed less than the journeyman plaisterer's cost in doing the same, exclusive of materials, with labourer and boy's time; likewise, to

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shew the equity of my charge, I have had taken out of my books the prime cost of the whole jobb upon oath, (the affidavit is hereunto annexed *) amounting to the sum of 1094*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* beside Mr. *Thomas Clark's* and my time, attending and conducting the works, with interest of money laid out; one clerk attending the men at the building, two others copying drawings, and writing at our accompting-house relating to this business; labourer's time at our yard packing and sending off materials, waste and use of scaffold, &c. waste of wax for moulds, at 2*s.* *per lb.* All of which, as we could not ascertain the exact cost, we have not included in the above sum of 1094*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* but we do believe, upon a moderate computation, the whole prime cost cannot be much less than twelve hundred pounds. — How unjust then will it appear to reduce our bill to a sum less than the cost. I have applied to Sir *William* in person, have also wrote to him upon this business, and hope he will with you, (or whoever the consideration of these bills are referred to) appoint a meeting, to examine particularly into this business. I am, Sir,

your most obedient humble servant,

December 9, 1782.
Millbank-Row, Westminster.

CHARLES CLARKE.

N. B. A copy of the affidavit was inclosed in this letter, and directed to — *Paine*, Esq. Architect, Salisbury-Street, Strand; and delivered by one of my men.

Finding no notice was taken of these letters, and that I was liable to be aspersed; it became requisite to take

* See the end of the Lill.

take other steps to prevent this mischief. — Prepared therefore with the opinion of six of the most reputable masters of the trade, * who, convinced of the rectitude of my intentions, as well as the necessity of the measure, are ready to stand forth in my favour; I again waited on Sir *William*, — begged he would reconsider this matter; the reparation of the injury was only to be sought for from his hands: — He answered me — “ It was too late — the accounts were passed — and delivered to the auditor.”

Struck with astonishment at the injustice of such treatment, remonstrance was my only present resource. — It is a duty every man owes to himself, to endeavour, on all occasions, to vindicate his integrity, to which no dishonest man can have the least pretence; and the consideration is some relief to his mind, though the points he aims at, should not be altogether attained, when he reflects that he has used his utmost exertions to such a laudable and valuable purpose. — I therefore entreated Sir *William* for permission to point out where I was injured — how grossly — for in some of the reduced prices, such strange impropriety stared men of knowledge so full in the face, that, though they reprobated the injury, they could not avoid treating the mode adopted with ridicule. — For there was no difference made between circular and elliptical works, &c. — I then asked Sir *William* the following questions —

Can an ellipsis be drawn with the same facility upon paper, as a circle? — Ought there to be, in one place,

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4d.

* See page 7 of this introduction.

4d. *per* foot run allowed for a straight moulding, and the next article, immediately following, of elliptical ditto the same girt, only 2½d. *per* foot run?—Ought pateras to be charged at 2s. each in one room, and the very same in another room 1s. 6d.?—Ought mouldings of nearly the same denomination to be *considerably* different in prices?—Can this be doing business with judgment?

Besides, was it not necessary to consider the enriched cornices being finished in so masterly and particularly neat a manner—flowers pierced and exactly corresponding over the center of modillions, pines, bells, and dentals, in direct lines under them, making a material difference in the working? It must be allowed. But this appears to have been no consideration of Mr. *Paine's* in his valuation.

Give me leave also to ask, Sir *William*—What reason could there be for his reducing the prices of the ornaments, particularly such as were done after so complete and singular a manner; of which, no man can be a judge, so as to value, but the practical workman; or he, who is acquainted with the prime cost of such works?

To all these queries Sir *William* favoured me with the subsequent reply — “ That nothing had been taken off
 “ from either the ornaments or enriched cornices —
 “ that the pateras should all have been at 1s. 6d. each —
 “ that he had conferred with Mr. *Paine*, and it was
 “ his opinion that fair prices were allowed.”

Where men differ in matters of mere opinion, the deviation is allowable, as they may be built on apparent truth; and the ingenuity of argument will often
 lead

lead them into error, which, not being able to refute, they must accede to: but facts are such stubborn things, and will speak so forcibly for themselves, that neither the pride of office—the subtilty of sophistry—nor pliability of servility can conquer or destroy.—Such, therefore, I produced, to shew in what degree the prices were fair, as I could not think of dissenting from a man of Sir *William's* consequence, unless led by the most irrefragable proofs; when this is the case, and on so particular an occasion, I flatter myself, I shall rather be approved than condemned.

To these proofs, therefore, drawn from facts, we must advert.—In one article of the ornaments, for the executing of which I paid 12*l.* 2*s.* beside materials, labourer, and boy's time attending, &c. and charged only 13*l.* 16*s.* Mr. *Paine* has reduced to 11*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.*—there are likewise flowers, which cost seven shillings each, Mr. *Paine* allows only five for—besides several other articles of ornamental works, which are reduced to less than the cost.—As to those enriched cornices, worked in so particular a manner, that Sir *William* said, had suffered no decrease in price, there is not one from which something is not taken.

Certain of these truths, I was induced to tell Sir *William*, that, by his replication, it appeared as if he had not remembered what had been done by Mr. *Paine*.—Either from necessity, or convenience, men's memories we often find are fallacious; on this, therefore, I continued not to dwell, but farther, to justify my charge, told him the valuation of the master plaisterers before spoken of, and which I was ready to produce.

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Supported thus by such very respectable — intelligent — and well-informed authority, I had not a doubt but Sir *William* would have turned a favourable ear to my appeal — and particularly when it was considered, that so large a sum as near 1200*l.* had been laid out in a public building; where not only a tradesman expects emolument, but hopes to gain some reputation; — that a bill reduced to a less sum than the cost, beside time and attendance, with interest of money expended, must destroy the very pleasure and intent of business — that the scandal of having appeared to charge so enormous a sum more than fair-dealing would warrant, must, to an honest mind, be painful in the extreme. — But, on the contrary, as if divested of every species of generosity and candour, as if he had never tasted the milk of human kindness, Sir *William* gave an answer to the following effect —

“ That I might have employed better workmen,
 “ so as to have had my profit — That master plaisterers would value the works high enough, for the
 “ sake of themselves in their future employ — That
 “ *Mr. Collins*, the plaisterer who did the other part of
 “ the building, was satisfied, why should I murmur —
 “ That it did not become a tradesman to be thus clamorous, in going about the town complaining —
 “ That it would be more for my advantage to be quiet,
 “ if I expected business hereafter — and that I should
 “ create myself many enemies.”

The inhumanity of such a response, for so I must consider it, to a man materially injured in his property
 by

by inequitable means, and trembling at the most distant appearance of injury to his character, roused my spirit to a declaration of my undisguised sentiments, and assurance, to Sir *William*, “ That rather than put up
“ with such unjust treatment, I would, at the hazard
“ of forfeiting all business, do my utmost endeavour
“ to procure redress,” and then left him.

Thus closed the conversation, and I am sorry to say, that I found not the least disposition in Sir *William* to offer me any assistance, which the love of justice should have inspired him with; but, as if totally careless of the consequence which might happen to others, he studied only to enjoy his own felicity, and seemed rather industrious to find some excuses for his conduct, than paying attention to the obvious proofs, built on incontrovertible facts, which I had placed before him. — One or two of these excuses I shall take the liberty of making my animadversions upon before I quit the subject, and then give a concise view of the whole matter; fully persuaded every unprejudiced reader will see the transaction in the same point of view which I do, who I sincerely wish may be so guarded in their employments, as ever to receive the just reward of their honest industry, and not, like me, experience the effects of unmerited illiberality.

As a species of exculpation, Sir *William*, we find, urged, that I should have employed *better* workmen. — Now it is well known in the trade, that my assistants were not inferior to the best in the kingdom; and to prove this, their names are inserted to the prime cost
of

of the ornamental works immediately after the bill; one of whom conducted some works for Sir *William* a few years ago; he was *then* esteemed a *good* workman — Can experience make *him* worse?

Sir *William* said Mr. *Collins* was satisfied with his bill being reduced — that I deny — he is not: I have authority to declare it — and also that Mr. *Collins* said, Sir *William* ought not to use his name for such purpose; that the prices reduced are uncustomary, incorrect, and inadequate to, those works — but, on account of the great concerns Sir *William* and himself have had together, rather than enter into any altercation with him, as he had left off business, and it could not affect him in future, by making those reduced prices precedents; and the money taken off being no great object to him, he had thought proper to put up with it.

Now it does not appear, that there is any just foundation for either of these assertions; for what intent are they therefore made use of? — To supply some colour of excuse for conduct, that, even with such support, the best it can acquire, is shamefully oppressive. — For, in the first instance, the work itself, which has met with universal approbation, is a living proof, at this time, of the merits of the artists.

With regard to the second, Mr. *Collins*'s negative and submission is at once a refutation, as well as an argument of his honour — candour — and delicacy — never intended to be made use of as unworthy subterfuges.

Had the loss I sustained been the only injury, perhaps I should not have troubled the public with this matter;

matter ; but so tenacious am I of my integrity, that I could not rest satisfied under the least suspicion of it's suffering in the opinion, even of those with whom probably I may never have the least intercourse or connexion. — For the purpose, therefore, of self-defence, I have stepped forward, and flatter myself I shall stand unimpeached in the mind of every liberal man ; — indeed, even those, by whom I am injured, must, conscious of their own insincerity, and unable to refute a tittle of what I have here advanced, secretly acknowledge the following facts.

First — That from my earliest period of life, I have, in every concern, for others as well as myself, acted as an industrious, upright man.

Secondly — That it is highly improbable I should be guilty of so scandalous a surcharge as 200*l*.

Thirdly — That such a deduction has been the effect of interest — ignorance — or some more ungenerous cause.

Fourthly — That in the conduct of this business several usual advantages have been withdrawn — drawbacks, unknown before, insisted on — men's time, though employed not in the service of their masters, paid for by them * ; the expence of which, though promised to be repaid, has never been refunded.

Fifthly — That notwithstanding these disadvantages, which must materially lessen the profit, surveyors have deducted from the usual allowed profits, by the bill ; without considering the merits of the performance, or

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making

* Vide the military exercise bill, &c.

making themselves acquainted with the prime cost of any of the articles.

Sixthly — That by these means my bill is reduced, exclusive of the interest of money, time, and attendance, to a sum less than the original cost.

Seventhly — That, although the most experienced and reputable masters have examined the works, and given their opinion in favour of my charge, and the expence of several of the articles, shewn to be more than the prices allowed, yet still there can be no redress.

Eighthly — That, though the above assertions are proved to be true, the whole relief, if such it can be called, is Sir *William Chambers's* condescending to make use of ungenerous subterfuges, and holding up threats to intimidate me from vindicating myself.

Thus, after laying out about 1200*l.* in government service, I am reduced to the necessity of taking very little more than 1100*l.* and being told, for my consolation, that *Mr. Collins* is satisfied, that the accounts are passed, and delivered to the auditors, and that if I made a bustle about it, I should hurt my future business.

Be it so — under the present circumstances, business seems to be pretty freely robbed of its sweets — it is become worse than a bee-hive without honey, at least in its lower department — I am certain, I have too sensibly felt it.

The only resource I have now left, is thus to lay the whole matter open to the public; hope they will candidly

didly survey, impartially examine, and fairly determine between us. — I shall then not be the least doubtful of rising in their estimation, and convincing them, that, as the hopes of emolument can by no means warp my honesty, no superior power, however fortuitously placed in an higher order, that will do an unjust act to me, shall pass unnoticed — nor shall present threats, or future expectations, bribe me into silence.

I am, Gentlemen,

your most obedient,

and very humble servant,

Millbank-Row, Westminster,

January, 1783.

CHARLES CLARKE.

PLASTER'S WORK

DONE FOR

The Right Honourable the LORDS COMMISSIONERS of his Majesty's Treasury,

AT THE

NEW OFFICES AT SOMERSET-HOUSE,

Under the Direction of Sir WILLIAM CHAMBERS,

{ Per the Executors of the late Mr. THOMAS CLARK, and CHARLES CLARKE.

In the Building next the Strand; finishing the Apartments for the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and the East Wing for the Hackney Coach Office; and Repairs in the old Apartments.

Reference: 1778, 1779, and 1780.

1.

Yards

Of rough rendering - - - - -
Of rendering, set - - - - -
Of circular rendering, set to arch'd ceiling - - -

44
240 1/4
66 1/2

Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke	
d.		d.	
	-	3	11 0
	-	4 1/2	4 10 1 1/4
5 1/2	-	6	1 13 2

Carried over £. 6 14 3 1/4

G.

R E M A R K S.

1. Since the reduction of these prices were made by Mr. Paine, a blank bill was taken into the works, which have been carefully inspected by six of the first master plaisterers of *London* and *Westminster*, and a valuation put to the several articles in this bill, according to their judgment, the total sum of which amounts to more than my charge; and as we proceed in the remarks made to the several articles reduced by Mr. Paine, we shall at the same time introduce the valuation to the said articles made by the master plaisterers.

a. This article very clearly demonstrates either a determination to lessen the amount, or betrays a want of judgment in plaistering by reducing it; for, what man of only common experience, but would be sensible, that there is a vast additional trouble in circular works, and indeed a greater quantity of materials often wasted, or used in such works; and can $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ extra, for nine superficial feet, and for two coats of circular plaistering, be too much?—Every gentleman who pretends to fix a value on business, should be master of the profits; and no one, so qualified, would ever think to diminish the prices on articles of plain work, at the customary and usual charges: Reference 3 is a confirmation of the above assertion; the work is circular, it is lathed, and has two coats of plaistering, the last is floated; now the article at reference a is likewise circular, which has two coats of common work, and not floated, yet that has the addition of $1d.$ per yard; either this article a, with this gentleman's improvement, (if I may be allowed the expression) is even now too highly valued, or that at reference 3, reduced at $11d.$ per yard, is considerably, (not to say most shamefully) undervalued.

Reference	Yards		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l. s.	d.
			s.	d.	s.	d.		
b.		<i>Brought over</i>						
	192 $\frac{3}{4}$	Of floated rendering, set for paper	-	-	6	6	6	14
	855 $\frac{1}{2}$	Of ditto, set fair	-	-	4	7	4	16
	703 $\frac{1}{2}$	Of circular floated rendering, set	-	-	24	9	18	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
	57 $\frac{2}{3}$	Of ditto to groins	-	-	2	10	2	12
2.	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	Of lathing	-	-	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
	61	Of lath and plaister, one coat	-	-	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	7
	87	Of lath and plaister, set	-	-	1	9	1	18
	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Of ditto, three coats	-	-	3	0	3	5
	109 $\frac{2}{3}$	Of two coats of lime and hair on laths to counter ceilings, and trowell'd	-	-	2	10	2	5
3.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	Of floated lath and plaister, not set	-	-	45	10	45	10
	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Of circular ditto	-	-	5	2	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	738	Of floated lath and plaister, set for paper	-	-	7	0	7	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
	2193 $\frac{1}{2}$	Of ditto, set fair	-	-	36	18	36	18
			-	-	1	1	1	16
			Carried over		£. 251		0 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	

R E M A R K S.

b. N.B. In this article the run of groins was not measured, it being customary to allow *2d. per foot run* for the same.

2. Query — With what propriety can *3d.* be allowed for rough rendering, *4½d.* for lathing, and only *7d.* for lath and plaister, one coat? This article is valued by the six master plaisterers at *7½d. per yard.*

3. Allowing *1s. 6d.* for circular floated lath and plaister, and only *11d.* for ditto, not set, and more particularly as this article was at the back of circular architraves, strings, &c. — so that the difference made is *7d. per yard* for setting only, a price that no person of judgment would think of. This article is valued by the six master plaisterers at *1s. 2d. per yard.*

4. All

Reference	Yards	Ft. In.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine, and those annexed as reconsidered	Prices by Mr. Clarke	l.	s.	d.
			<i>Brought over</i>					
			Of floated lath and plaister to ceilings, in pannels					
3.	133 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$		Of circular lath and plaister, in small circles -	s. d.	s. d.	25 1	0	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
		80 2	Sup. of circular cove -	s.	s.	10	0	0
5.		67 8 c	— of elliptical cove -			1	19	9
6.		108 c	— of spherical cove -	4	5	13	7	6
			Of stucco on bricks, trowell'd -	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	14	2	6
	339 $\frac{1}{4}$ 78		Of circular ditto, trowell'd -			2	14	
			Sup. of circular ditto, trowell'd -			25	8	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.		11 c	Sup. of spherical ditto to head of niche -	4		7	3	6
	66 2		Of stucco on laths, trowell'd -			66	4	
4.	151 $\frac{2}{3}$		Of circular ditto -	2	6	18	19	2
5.	14 $\frac{1}{3}$		Of elliptical ditto -	2	3	2	3	
7.		266 10	Sup. of cover to cornices -	2	3	3	6	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
		15 1	— of elliptical ditto -	3	4	3	5	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
6.		63 10	— of plain frieze, set -	3	4	1	1	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
d.		63 11	— of 3-pannell'd circular splay'd soffits, with raised margins, to five windows -	1	4	4	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carried over						£. 422	6	4 $\frac{1}{4}$

REMARKS.

4. All circular works, notwithstanding the working of them may appear easy and simple to the unexperienced in workmen's labour, still they require great care and abilities to keep them just, and more labour considerably than straight; and it has ever been the rule to allow not less than one fourth more than the price of straight, and in some cases more: beside, it is well known, that the general part of the trade charge for straight stucco on laths, trowelled, 2s. 2d. and some 2s. 3d. per yard; yet I have been so reasonable in my charge, to put only 2s. per yard: Mr. Paine had put the circular at 2s. 3d. per yard, but afterwards reconsidered, and put the same as my charge, 2s. 6d. but the six master plasterers have valued this article at 2s. 8d. per yard.

5. With respect to elliptical works, none can ascertain the value of them, but he who views them with a workman's eye, and he only is sensible of the extra time such works require to finish; and though it has been customary to allow one half more than the price of straight, yet that price in many instances will not pay. Mr. Paine has considered this elliptical work at the same price as circular; but can he, with equal facility, draw upon paper an ellipsis, as he may a circle? The six master plasterers value the elliptical stucco on laths at 3s. per yard.

6. Spherical stucco on bricks, Mr. Paine has allowed only 4d. per foot superficial, and for spherical cove set fair, 5d. halfpenny, and for plain frieze, the same price as the spherical stucco, 4d. Now I appeal to the practical workman, whether these prices are in proportion to the value of the labour to these separate works? Should there not be some kind of proportion kept for those works that are double the labour, and materials more expensive? The labour to all spherical works is almost inconceivable; none can do them but the most skilful workmen; and if done upon laths, they must be cut in very short lengths; and the whole is done with a mould, and from several centers. The six master plasterers have valued this spherical stucco to niche head, and the spherical cove, both at 7d. per foot superficial.

7. Covers to cornices (in these modern times) are seldom wider than 6 inches; often less; they are lathed, and have three coats floated, gaged and done after the cornices: the usual price is 3d. per foot; Mr. Paine has allowed only 2d. the six master plasterers value it at 3d. I must beg leave to remark here, that it has ever been the custom in measuring up the cornices, &c. where there are covers, to allow 1 inch upon the cover extra to the girts of the cornices, &c. and where the mould runs home to grounds, to take in the whole of such covers, with the said girts, on account of the upper edge of the fillet or nose of the cornice requiring extra labour: this custom was refused us by the persons who measured up these works; whatever they were pleased to oppose, they were ready enough to say, was Sir William's order.

d. Splayed pannelled soffits—He is a bold man who has not seen the working of them; or who is unacquainted with the labour and materials they have required; who will fix a price as a standard; but it appears something must be taken off, right or wrong. See more of pannelled soffits at remarks upon 14.

[illegible]

R E M A R K S.

8. I submit this article to the judgment of any one acquainted with the work of a plaisterer, whether a workman, at the reduced price of 1*d.* per foot, can earn his master half his wages, exclusive of labourer and boy, with the materials; let the joints of the 15 separate pannels putting to by hand, with the circular parts, be fairly considered. The six master plaisterers have valued this article at 4*d.* per foot run.—This article of 91 feet of moulding, 1 inch girt, part straight, and part circular, is in such a variety of lengths, so as to contain 60 angles or mitres, worked by hand; and at every one of the lengths, which are very short, the same preparation must be repeated, as if they were longer lengths. It appears by this reduced price, that Mr. Paine has considered it in the light of joiner's work; but it is well known by workmen, that the labour, between one and the other, bears no comparison; the joiner works his moulding with the style, in as long lengths as his board will admit, perhaps 12 or 14 feet, and his mitres are instantly cut in a box; the plaisterer's labour is very materially different, having his mitres all to work by hand; nevertheless, except in a few instances, plaistering in general is not near the expence of joiner's work, (and is far preferable in particular situations) though in this article it appears otherwise, on account of the many mitres put to by hand, and the moulding being in such a number of short lengths: neither these mitres, nor the circular parts, &c. Mr. Paine has in the least considered; and when it is observed, that for a straight moulding of the same girt, with only 4 mitres put to by hand, see No. 17, Mr. Paine has put 1½*d.* per foot, and this only 1*d.* it shews plainly how erroneously these prices have been reduced.

9. Reed mouldings have ever been considered of more value than any other plain mouldings, because there is more labour in executing them. This article the six master plaisterers have valued at 7*d.* per foot run, and the circular at 9*d.*

Reference	Ft. In.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine, and those annexed as reconsidered	Prices by Mr. Clarke	l. s. d.
		<i>Brought over</i>			
	56	Sup. of dentil cornice, with relieved bell flowers be- tween ditto, put up separate	1 2½	1 3	493 15 10
	101	Sup. of block cornice, the face of the block enriched with four flutes	1	1 4	3 10 11½
	77	Sup. of ditto, with fluted pateras on the soffits of the blocks	1 3	1 6	6 15 6½
	163	Run of quirks			5 16 1½
10.	61	--- of circular ditto		1 1½	13 7¾ ¾
11.	18	--- of elliptical ditto		2	7 7¾ ¾
12.	14	--- of circular, bead, and double quirks	3	6	3 1
	25	--- of stucco quirks	1	1½	7 2
13.	198	--- of angular stucco staff, bead, & double quirks	2½	4	3 2¼ ¾
	1529	Sup. of stop and whitening, to plain mouldings	3	1½	3 6 0¾ 1½
	793	Sup. of ditto, to enriched mouldings, and ornaments		1	3 3 6 2
<i>Carried over</i>					£. 521 9 1

R E M A R K S.

10. Compare the run of fingle quirks, for which 1*d.* is allowed, with the run of mouldings 1 inch girt, and particularly where 60 joints are put to by hand in 91 feet, and only 1*d.* allowed—see 8.

11. Here Mr. *Paine* admits of elliptical quirks to be more than circular, contrary to his opinion in other parts of this bill, respecting elliptical and circular works.

12. For this article in setting stuff, is allowed the price of two circular quirks only, see 11, so that the bead appears to be considered by Mr. *Paine* as nothing.

13. Stucco bead, and double quirks, form a moulding, which require much skill and labour to execute well; the brittleness of the materials, and the arreses occasion it. The fingle quirk set, is always worth 1*d.* per foot, that in stucco 1½*d.* the quirk being finished first in coarse stuff, afterwards in stucco. This article reduced by Mr. *Paine*, at 2½*d.* and afterwards reconsidered at 3*d.* the fix master plaisterers have valued at 4*d.* per foot run.

14. Mr.

Yards	Ft. In.	No.	Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine d.	Prices by Mr. Clarke	l.	s.	d.
					521	9	1
2284 ³				1	9	10	4 ³
635 ¹				2	5	5	11
		27		1	2	0	6
		76		1	4	8	8
		16		1	0	16	0
152 ³		2		1 ¹	19	1	1
				1	0	2	0

Brought over
 Of stop and whitening to new work -
 Of lime whitening, twice done -
 Sash frames bedded in lime and hair -
 Sash frames pointed all round with lime and hair -
 Chimnies rendered and fet -
 Of wash, stop, and white to old work -
 Cornices pointed -

In the Royal Society's Library and Museum.

Sup. of funk pannelled soffits to 4 windows, with raised margins -

6	8	2	9	1 ¹
Carried over	£. 547	0	9	

R E M A R K S.

14. *Mr. Paine* allows 6*d.* per foot for this article, containing 73 feet 4 inches to 4 windows, and to the following article, only 7*d.* per foot to 8 raking pannels, part circular, &c. containing only 60 feet 6 inches. Query--whether the addition of 1*d.* per foot is by any means adequate? In this bill 9*d.* per foot sup. is thought a moderate price for plain cornices, (and which *Mr. Paine* allows—see reference *c.*) which in general are of large dimensions; how inconsiderate must it appear to those conversant in plaisterer's work, to make a third difference less in pannelled soffits, and which are in general in small quantities, (as in this article referred to) and are indeed attended with much more labour; each pannel requiring equal preparation, as almost double the quantity would in other respects. This article and the four following of pannelled works are so injudiciously considered by *Mr. Paine*, that they need little or no comment.

15. Query

References	Ft. In.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine, and those annexed as reconsidered		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
			s.	d.	s.	d.			
	60	6	7d.		1	0	547	0	9
	17	9					3	0	6
15.	22	0	7		1	0		17	9
16.	26	5	10		1	6	1	13	0
	74	11	1	0	2	0	2	12	10
	11	9	4			8	2	9	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
17.	40	2	6		1	0		11	9
18.	157	9	1 $\frac{1}{2}$			2 $\frac{1}{2}$		7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
	92	5	d.	2		3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	6	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
	282	0	3			4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	14	8
	45	2	4			3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	2	3
			4			5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carried over							£. 567	17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$

Brought over

Sup. of ditto to 8 jambs in raking funk pannels, with raised margins, part circular }
 Sup. of ditto in 3 funk pannels, with raised margins }
 Sup. of circular soffits on laths in No. 10, square }
 funk pannels, with raised margins }
 Sup. of circular ditto in No. 10, raking funk pan- }
 nels, with raised margins }
 Sup. of plain frame in ceiling }
 --- of elliptical ditto }
 Run of plain mouldings, 1 inch girt }
 Run of ditto, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ girt, to 35 small pannels, with }
 140 interfections, called joints, or mitres }
 Run of circular ditto, to ditto }
 --- of plain mouldings, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ girt }
 --- of elliptical ditto }

R E M A R K S.

15. Query—Can any journeyman earn his wages at this reduced price?

16. How injudiciously is this article of circular soffits considered, at the reduced price of 10*d.* *per* foot?—here are 40 joints put to by hand in 22 feet. The six master plaisterers value it at 1*s.* 6*d.* *per* foot superficial—nearly double the money Mr. *Paine* has considered it at.

17. Mr. *Paine* allows 1½*d.* *per* foot here, where there are only 4 joints put to; and in the article (see 8) where there are 60 joints put to by hand, only 1*d.*—This is particularly pointed at, to shew in what proportions these reduced prices have been considered. This article is valued by the six master plaisterers at 3*d.* *per* foot run.

18. The article of 157 feet 9 inches run of plain mouldings, 1¼ girt, to 35 small pannels, with 140 joints put to by hand, Mr. *Paine* has reduced to 2*d.* *per* foot, afterwards reconsidered at 3*d.* the six master plaisterers valued at 4½*d.* *per* foot run.

References	Ft. In.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine, and those annexed as reconsidered	Prices by Mr. Clarke	l.	s.	d.
		<i>Brought over</i>					
	81	4	Run of circular ovolo and hollow moulding, 4 inches girt, to pannels in cove - - -	d.	567	17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
19.	32	0	Run of mouldings as ditto, 4 inches girt in 8 inch lengths, to ditto pannels in cove - -	d.	1	13	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
	19	4	Run of plain mouldings, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches girt - - -	7	1	1	4
20.	40	8	Run of circular ditto, ditto - - -	4 $\frac{1}{2}$			
	196	4	--- of plain mouldings, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches girt - - -	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	8	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
21.	21	8	--- of elliptical ditto - - -	7	1	3	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
	18	0	--- of impost moulding, with fluted frieze, 7 inches girt - - -	5	5	6	4
			Run of ditto, with fluted frieze, 9 inches girt - -	8	14	14	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
	6	0	Run of enriched double gulofs, 6 inches girt, ornamented with flowers and honey-suckles, in double filleted bands - - -	1	18	0	0
	140	8	Run of elliptical ditto - - -	9	1	7	0
22.	22	8	Run of elliptical ditto - - -	2	14	1	4
				2	2	16	8

Carried over £. 596 9 3

R E M A R K S.

19. Query — Does not this article require a greater price than that preceding, being run in long lengths, this in 48 separate short lengths, with joints put to? Mr. *Painè* has since reconsidered this, and allowed 7*d.* The six master plasterers have valued it at 8*d.* per foot run, and the preceding article at 6*d.*

20. In all circular mouldings the difference of cleaning off is material; the straight work being done with rules, but the circular must be done entirely by hand:

21. But elliptical mouldings are still more so. I appeal to the practical workman for an answer.—But Mr. *Paine* makes no difference.

22. This article of elliptical enriched double gulofs the six master plasterers have valued at 3*s.* per foot run.

Recep. k.	Ft. In.	No.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
				s.	d.	s.	d.			
			<i>Brought over</i>							
		19	Pateras, 6 inches diameter, fluted, with beaded moulding, and lion's head in center	2	0	2	6	596	9	3
		16	Flowers, 6 inches diameter, with 8 turned head water leaves in ditto	1	6	3	0	2	7	6
		16	Scrolled tops to the pannels of cove, with a rich foliage leaf wrought by hand, 10 inches wide, 8 inches girt, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch projection, with flow- ers in the eyes of the scroll, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter	8	0	12	0	9	12	0
23.			In the Royal Society's Library & Council Room.							
			<i>Principal Floor.</i>							
	107	3	Sup. of cornice, three members, enriched—Ca- vetto, with star flower, and raffle leaf and husk, pierced hollow—Ovolo, with pine, and raffled leaf and husk, and O G, with water leaf, husk and berry	2	0	2	3	12	1	$3\frac{3}{4}$

Carried over £. 622 18 $0\frac{3}{4}$

R E M A R K S.

1. Can 1s. 6d. be deemed a fair price for those 6 inch turned head water leaves?

23. These scrolled tops are in all respects similar in point of labour to those in the anti room; there they are allowed 10s. 6d. by Mr. Paine, here 8s. only. See m. between No. 34 and 35.

24. The

R E M A R K S.

24. The plain ground for frames in ceiling, is either raised work on the floated ceilings, or the cutting away the floating and pricking up, and running a preparation on the laths with gaged stuff, to receive the enriched work. If the mouldings are taken separate, these grounds are generally allowed to be worth nearly the same with plain mouldings *per* foot superficial.

25. Query—Whether a workman can, in this article, earn his master 1s. *per* day, and compare this, being $7\frac{1}{2}$ inch lengths, with that at No. 19, being 8 inch lengths, allowed 5d. *per* foot, afterwards 7d. The six master plaisterers have valued this article at 6d *per* foot run, the next article at 6d. and the following at 8d.

28. Is 76 feet 8 inches run of plain moulding, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch girt, and has only 4 mitres, and to which 3d. *per* foot run is allowed, in what proportion is the labour to No. 8. 17. 18. and several other of the small girted mouldings considered with this article, and at No. 27. a moulding of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches girt, is by Mr. Paine reduced to the same price, 3d. *per* foot.

26. If

Refer	Ft. In.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine, and those annexed as reconsidered		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
			4d.	3d.	s.	d.			
26.	74	0	Brought over						
			Run of ditto, 2 inches girt, to 12 circles and 12 segments, with various interfections - - -						
	19	7	Run of plain mouldings, 3 inches girt, to No. 16, octagon pannels - - -						
27.	146	8	Run of ditto, 3½ inches girt - - -						
29.	61	10	--- of plain mouldings, 4¼ girt, to 4 pannels of cove - - -						
30.	21	0	--- of elliptical ditto - - -						
	13	2	--- of circular plain moulded frame, 9½ inches girt - - -						
	70	0	--- of moulded architrave to frame, 6½ inches girt, one member enriched, a cima, ruffled leaf and hulk, pierced hollow - - -						
	13	2	Run of circular enriched fret, 3¾ face, with 24 small pannels in ditto, and a flower in each, 1¾ diameter - - -						
31.	73	0	Run of enriched frame to ceiling of Grecian honey- suckle, bands round ditto, and hulks between, 6 inches wide - - -						

Carried over £. 669 10 6

REMARKS.

26. If the labour to this article had been impartially considered, Mr. *Paine* surely could not have reduced it to 3*d.* Does he see the intersections of the segments? The six master plaisterers have valued it at 8*d.* per foot run.

27. Compare this article of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch girt at 3*d.* only, with the plain moulding, a few articles preceding in this room, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch girt (see 28) where the same price is allowed by Mr. *Paine*—are these considered proportionally?

29. This article of 61 feet 10 inches is upon a circular ground, and 16 joints put to by hand. Query—Is this reduced price adequate to such works? The six master plaisterers value this at $5\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* and the next, elliptical ditto, at 8*d.*

30. The 21 feet run of elliptical mouldings to panels, reduced by Mr. *Paine* to $4\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* and only 1*d.* allowed between those and plain, (see 29) are far from being skillfully considered; for it is well known by the trade, that all works which are elliptical require more labour than any price which is generally allowed will afford profit for; the running or floating them by 4 centers, the difficulty of preventing uneven parts, and cleaning them off, makes it certainly worth half as much more as straight, which has been the custom to allow, and in some cases, (with great reason) more.

31. This enriched frame has only 4 intersections, and to the enriched frame to stair-case ceiling, where there are 24 intersections, and much richer work, Mr. *Paine* has put the same price only.—N. B. This is the enrichment that is inverted.

Refer.	Ft. In.	No.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine	Prices by Mr. Clarke	l.	s.	d.
32.	38	4	Brought over Run of laurel leaves and berries, wrought by hand, in 12 festoons, 2 inches wide, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch projection	2 0	2 6	669	10	6
33.	28	0	Run of ornaments in 16 pilaster pannels of cove, wrought by hand, consisting of ruffled leaves, stalks and husks between, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches face	7 <i>per</i> pannel	5 0	7	0	0
34.	22	0	Run of festoons of fruit and flowers in cove, all wrought by hand, $3\frac{1}{2}$ wide on a mean, $1\frac{3}{4}$ projection	6 0	7 6	8	5	0
m.	76 10	16	Run of ditto as ditto, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide on a mean, $2\frac{1}{8}$ projection	6 0	8 0	30	14	8
35.		16	Scrolled tops to the pannels of the cove, with a rich foliage leaf, all wrought by hand, on ditto, $10\frac{1}{2}$ wide, 9 inches girt	10 6	12 0	9	12	0
32.		32	Pieces of foliage ornaments, wrought by hand, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 6 inches wide on a mean, $\frac{5}{8}$ pro- jection		3 0	4	16	0
		12	Pieces of fan ornaments, wrought by hand, 6 in- ches long and 4 inches wide on a mean	1 6	2 0	1	4	0
Carried over						L. 735	18	0

R E M A R K S.

32. The ornament plaisterers were paid for working the 38 feet 4 inches of laurel leaves, 12 pieces of fan ornaments, 12 pieces of double husks, and the 12 ties of ribband, 4*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* exclusive of labourer, boy, and materials. The particulars of the time is at the end of the bill. Mr. *Paine* allows 6*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*—the whole cost 5*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*

33. The ornament plaisterer's time to this article, and fixing the 16 vases (see No. 37) comes to 7*l.* 4*s.* exclusive of labourer, boy, and materials. See the particular time at the end of the bill. So that in this article Mr. *Paine* has allowed me 16*s.* less than the cost, besides labourer's and boy's time attending, with the materials used, which may be computed about 1*l.* 8*s.* more, beside the 16 vases. The fix master plaisterers value this and the vases at 14*l.* 8*s.* Mr. *Paine* only 8*l.* 16*s.*

m. These scrolled tops are in all respects similar in point of labour to those at 23.—there Mr. *Paine* has reduced my price to 8*s.* here to 10*s.* 6*d.*

35. Let this article be contrasted with the ornaments in the 16 plaister pannels, at 7*s.* *per* pannel, and see if two of these pieces of foliage ornament are adequate to 1 foot sup. of fruit and flowers (see 34). This article the fix master plaisterers have valued at 4*s.* each piece of ornament, my charge is but 3*s.* but Mr. *Paine*'s plan was not to allow me more than my charge, if 6*d.* had been put down for what had cost me a greater sum; no! it was plain his whole idea was reduction.

No.	Refer.	Description	Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine			Prices by Mr. Clarke			l.	s.	d.
			l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.			
<i>Brought over</i>											
36.	12	Pieces of ornaments, of double hulks, wrought by hand, } 8½ inches long, 2½ wide on a mean, ¾ inch projection	1	8			2	0	1	4	0
40		Ties of ribbands at ends of festoons of flowers, wrought by hand, 6 inches long, 4 inches wide, 2 inches projection	1	0			1	6	3	0	0
32.	12	Ties of ribbands, wrought by hand, 8½ inches long, 1½ wide on a mean, ⅓ projection		9			1	6		18	0
4		Masks and drapery of feminine and masculine, and fix- ing ditto	1	0	0		1	15	7	0	0
37.	16	Cast ornamented vases, with handles, drapery, flutes, and hulk at the bottom, 1 foot 2 inches long, 6½ wide, bent circular to cove	4	0			5	0	4	0	0
38.	4	Fluted and beaded pateras, 6½ diameter with flower in center of ditto	1	6			2	6		10	0
16		Cast pateras, 3¼ inches diameter, with flowers in the center of each		6			10			13	4
12		Small pateras, 1¾ diameter		3			4			4	0
									<i>Carried over</i> £. 753 7 4		

R E M A R K S.

36. Let these 12 pieces of double husks be compared with the following 12 pieces of ribbands, (see 32). This article the six master plaisterers have valued at 2s. 6d. *Mr. Paine* at 1s. 8d. only.

37. The 16 cast ornamented vases, reduced by *Mr. Paine* to 4s. each, is valued by the six master plaisterers at 8s. each.

38. For this article is allowed by *Mr. Paine*, 1s. 6d. at 4 pateras only; and in the Antiquarian Society's meeting room, where there are 18 pateras of the same size, 2s. a piece are allowed: hence it appears with what propriety these prices are reduced.—N. B. The mould could not be made for the whole sum; and the persons who measured up the works, insisted that the dimensions of these pateras should be deducted out of the enriched work they were fixed on; which were ever considered otherwise—for this reason, the labour is considerably more in making the enriched work good to the said pateras; and the nicety of measuring these pateras, &c. to the $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, is what I never met with before; — it has ever been the custom to allow the tradesmen these little advantages: and in several of the works where there was reason for girting, measuring on the face was only allowed.

39. Ob-

Ft. In.	Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
	s.	d.	s.	d.			
122	9	Brought over					
		Sup. of dentil cornice, three members enriched —					
		cima with ruffled leaf and husk pierced hollow,					
		bead with bead and space—dentil band with					
		relieved pines and cut dentils, and the soffits of					
		the corona enriched with a rose in a funk coffer					
		over every fourth pine, and a small O G pannel					
		2	4	2	9	16	17 6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sides in Anti Room.							
		Sup. of trowelled stucco, on laths, in 26 funk pan-					
		nels, with raised margins					
		Run of O G stucco mouldings to ditto, 1 inch girt					
		Run of ovolo hollow and bead moulding 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches					
		girt in stucco, the ovolo enriched with egg and					
		husk					
39.	746	9	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	15	11	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
40.	314	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	5	4	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
	220	0	8	10	9	3	4
Carried over					£. 800	4	1 $\frac{1}{4}$

R E M A R K S.

39. Observe, 6*d.* being allowed for the pannels in window soffits in the Royal Society's Library, and only 3*d.* halfpenny for pannels with trowelled stucco, compare the difference of work. The six master plasterers have valued this article at 5*d.* Mr. *Paine's* observation is, that joiner's work can be done at a more reasonable rate to this and the two following articles, and those to the sides in the hall, and is said by him to be preferable; but I beg leave to observe, that joiner's work cannot be considered as a criterion for the value of plasterer's work; for it is well known, that a joiner can make a fix pannelled door with mouldings, or soffits of the same kind in wood, much sooner than a plasterer can do the same quantity with his materials: the reason is obvious, not only on account of the mitres, but the various coats required by the plasterer, and running his mould separate: with respect to the materials, I am persuaded, that the several coats of plastering stuccoed, will not cost much less than wood: the joiner works his styles and mouldings together; but the plasterer has to work his various coats with different materials, and the styles finished complete before his mouldings are begun, and consequently the mouldings with him are a different article; and when ever this kind of work is expected to be done (where I am employed) at a less price than I have now charged, I will recommend to the surveyor to employ the joiner. Further, with respect to mouldings, the plasterer's materials are more expensive than wood, and the time required to do them properly is much longer; for, first, there is a preparation made on the stucco (or other plastering) that they may be run straight, and then run with different materials, one coat upon another; the preparation is afterwards cut off, and the stucco cleaned from the materials they were worked in, and that part has an additional floating, which plainly shews, there is more labour, &c. than the joiner can have in his works of the same kind, consequently ought to be of more value.

40. In this article it is asked, Whether a workman can earn half his wages at this reduced price; there being 26 pannels, and 104 joints put to by hand? Compare this article with the article 17, where the same price is allowed; they are both considered by Mr. *Paine* equal in price; and it is well known by the practical workmen, the labour to this article being stucco, is always of more value than the other, being run in setting stuff. Plain mouldings, all which girt less than 3 inches, are equally valuable as those of that dimension, and sometimes more so, and must be ever considered so by the plasterer, or he will be a loser; for the smaller the mouldings, the time to work them is much more increased; but Mr. *Paine* will say he has precedents to shew otherwise. I know he has; but in the same bill where such precedents are, there are articles that are four times greater than their value, which compensates for those small mouldings of 1, or 1 inch and half girt being so greatly undervalued. If at any time you have an opportunity of explaining to those surveyors who are fond of reduction, the impropriety

Refer.	Ft. In.	No.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine				Prices by Mr. Clarke			
				l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.	
41.		10	Brought over Pilaster pannels (4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, 9 feet 2 inches high) the ornaments all wrought by hand, consisting of strawberries, leaves, and hufks, the leaves 3 inches long, $\frac{5}{8}$ projection, very rich	2	15	0		3	10	0	
41.		6		6	6	0		6	16	6	
			Pilaster pannels (9 feet 2 inches high, 1 foot 1 inch wide, wrought by hand, consisting of strawberries, leaves, and hufks, with 4 ovals in each pannel, 10 inches by $7\frac{1}{4}$, with an O G moulding round ditto, and wreaths of laurel leaves and berries, exceeding rich								
			Antiquarian Societies Meeting Room.								
42.	124	0	Sup. of plain frame	4				8			
42.	46	0	--- of elliptical ditto	6				1	0		
42.	61	4	Run of elliptical torus ground for oak leaves, 5 inches girt	4				6			

Carried over £. 884 2 5 $\frac{1}{4}$

REMARKS.

40. *continued.*

priety of reducing some of the articles in our bills to a less sum than the cost, so as to make them sensible they have done so, their answer is very well, you must take the bad with the good—a very unreasonable answer in all cases, and more particularly in mine now; for I should be glad to find the good in this bill, after Mr. *Paine* has reduced the whole to a sum less than the prime cost.

I must here observe, that the best wainscoted rooms are always liable to shrink, and require often painting to fill up the blemishes, besides admitting cold air into a room from behind the wainscot through the cracks; this will not be the case with stucco pannelled plaistering, provided the timbers have sufficient strength to carry the works that are to follow, consequently stucco pannelled plaistering to the sides of rooms is preferable to wood.

41. The ornament plaisterers were paid for time, doing these 16 pannels, 56*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* exclusive of a plaisterer's time running the 24 ovals in the 6 largest pannels; and exclusive of labourer, boy, and materials. The whole cost about 63*l.* 15*s.* See particulars of ditto at the end of the bill. These pannels are valued by the six master plaisterers from the cost in working, 75*l.* 19*s.* Mr. *Paine*'s valuation amounts to 65*l.* 6*s.*

With respect to the value placed by Mr. *Paine* to the ornaments throughout the bill—how improbable is it, that a stranger to the expence of working them should ascertain their worth? I have observed in my introduction, that surveyors cannot be proper judges to value plaisterer's ornamental works, as they have no other means of doing it, but by some work before done, which is called by the same name, without considering the great difference of the superiority of skill in the performance, and the quantity of enrichments in the same space; it remains only for the practical workman of taste, and discernment, to view the work, and fix a value; but the surveyor should be acquainted with the prime cost, so as to ascertain its true worth.

42. Mr. *Paine* certainly cannot consider these elliptical articles with attention, by his reducing them thus: it plainly appears he does not, or is unacquainted with the several preparations absolutely necessary to work them. If straight, they would have been worth more than the prices he has reduced them to.

No.	F.	T.	Description	d.	Prices reduced by 10% by M. & S. as recommended		s.	d.
					d.	s.		
<i>Brought over</i>								
43.	10	10	Sup. of sunk pannels				22	4
44.	1	1	Run of plain mouldings, next cove, 1 1/4 inch girt				2	11
45.	19	3	Run of elliptical ditto				1	2
46.	3	7	Run of plain mouldings, 2 inches girt, with 4 inter- sections	4	2		7	2 1/2
47.	11	9	Run of elliptical ditto				1	9 1/2
48.	57	6	Run of plain mouldings, 3 1/4 inches girt				3	9 1/2
49.	42	2	Run of elliptical ditto, 10 spandrel pannels, 8 inter- sections				19	0
50.	33	2	Run of plain mouldings, 3 1/2 inches girt, to 7 pan- nels, with 28 right angled interfections	4	3 1/2		1	14
51.	26	6	Run of plain elliptical moulding, 10 inches girt				1	9
52.	13	3	Run of ovolo and hollow moulding, 3 1/4 inches girt, the ovolo enriched with water leaf and berry				9	2
53.	13	6	Run of elliptical ditto				1	12

Carried over £. 904 4 7 1/2

REMARKS.

43. Query — Can a workman in this article earn his master *ix. per day* for his wages, exclusive of labourer and boy, with materials? Observe, that 4 joints are put to by hand. My charge certainly does not pay the labour, in so small a quantity, and 4 inches.

44. I beg any person, a judge of business, will cast his eye upon the article no less 9 inches run of elliptical diamo, reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ with what propensity can it be less than the preceding article, being straight, allowed in $4d.$ when elliptical work is always of so much more value than straight? Surely, this is a glaring inconsistency.

45. Here Mr. Paine gets out of his mode of allowing one penny for every inch girt, this being $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches girt, and only $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ allowed.

46. Query — Can a journey man earn his wages in this article. The six master plasterers have valued it at $10d.$ per foot run.

47. Mr. Paine appears by no means ready to add to any of the articles that are under-charged; for in this of plain elliptical mouldings, 10 inches girt, where only $10d.$ is charged, he certainly must know, deserves another price. The six master plasterers have valued this at *ix. per foot run.*

Reference	Ft. In.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
			s.	d.	s.	d.			
56	8	<i>Brought over</i>							
		Run of elliptical moulding, 4 inches girt, one member enriched—O G, with indented water leaf and hulk between, pierced hollow - - -							
204	9	Run of moulded architrave, $5\frac{1}{2}$ girt, one member enriched, a cima with ruffled leaf, hulk and berry, pierced hollow - - -							
17	4	Run of elliptical ditto - - -							
25	0	--- of elliptical enriched gulofs, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, with flowers, put up separately - - -							
79	8	Run of 7 barred fret, on a 6 inch ground, 10 pannels							
67	2	--- of elliptical ditto - - -							
151	0	--- of enriched double gulofs and flowers, in diamond pannels, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches face, very full of work							
19	3	Run of elliptical ditto - - -							
39	6	--- of ivy leaves and berries, wrought by hand, in 12 festoons, $2\frac{1}{4}$ wide on a mean, $1\frac{3}{8}$ projection -							
		10	0	1	0	2	16	8	
		10	0	1	1	11	1	$9\frac{3}{4}$	
		1	1	1	4	1	3	$1\frac{1}{4}$	
				1	9	2	3	9	
				2	0	7	19	4	
				2	6	8	7	11	
				2	0	15	2	0	
				3	0	2	17	9	
				4	6	8	17	9	

Carried over £. 964 14 $8\frac{1}{2}$

R E M A R K S.

47. The ornament plaisterers' time to the swags of ivy, the 12, and the 2 bows of ribbands, the 12 pieces of ribbands, and 6 small links of chain, comes to 8*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* exclusive of labourer, boy, and materials. Mr. *Paine* reduces these articles to 10*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* which is a little more than the cost. See particulars at the end of the bill.

48. The

Refer.	Ft. In.	No.	Description	Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine.		Prices by Mr. Clarke.	
				s.	d.	l.	s. d.
48.	61	4	Run of elliptical oak leaves and acorns, wrought by hand, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches girt, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch projection, from face of fwell	3	8	96	4 14 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
49.		4	Very rich garlands of flowers, wrought by hand, 1 ft. 10 in. diameter, 3 in. wide, $1\frac{1}{2}$ projection			13	16 0
		4	Cyphers inside of ditto garlands, of the letters A. S. wrought by hand, 1 foot 2 inches long, 8 inches wide on a mean			8	8 0
		4	Ties of ribbands to ditto by hand, 1 foot $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide on a mean, $1\frac{1}{4}$ projection			2	2 0
		8	Branches of laurel leaves and berries, wrought by hand, 8 in. wide on a mean, $\frac{3}{4}$ projection	2	0	3	6 14 0
50.		4	Small raised pannels, for chandeliers, in gulofs frame, 8 inches square	15	0	17	6 7 0 0
51.		4	Six leaved roses, wrought by hand, in ditto pannels, $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter, with small open flowers in the center			1	0 4 0
				5	0	7	6 1 10 0

Carried over £. 998 8 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

R E M A R K S.

48. The ornament plaisterers were paid 12*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* for working these oak leaves and acorns, exclusive of labourer, boy, and materials. Mr. *Paine* allows only 11*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.* which is more than two pounds less than the cost. See the time at the end of the bill.

49. In this article our price is admitted, being at about 7*s.* *per* foot; and only 6*s.* *per* foot is allowed for fruit and flowers. Examine the difference—see festoons of fruit and flowers in the anti room, 34. The six master plaisterers have valued each of these garlands at 2*l.* 5*s.*

50. These 4 small pannels are raised half an inch with stuff. Query—Why should they be omitted, the same being allowed to the 8 raised pannels in the Antiquarian's Library, and there reduced to 6*d.* each?

51. The ornament plaisterers were paid 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for working these 4 roses—see the end of the bill. The six master plaisterers value these roses at 8*s.* each; Mr. *Paine* at 5*s.* only.

Ref.	No.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
			s.	d.	s.	d.			
47.	12	Brought over Bows of ribbands, wrought by hand, 1 foot 1 inch long, 2½ inches wide on a mean, 1¼ inch projection	1	6	3	0	99	8	8½
47.	2	Bows of ditto, 11½ inches long, 2½ inches wide, 1 inch projection	2	0	2	6	1	16	0
47.	12	Pieces of ribbands, 7½ inches long, 1 inch wide, ½ inch pro- jection, with a link of chain at the end, 1 inch diameter		9	1	6		18	0
47.	6	Small links and chain, 1 inch diameter, between the medallions, wrought by hand		4		6		3	0
52.	14	Small circular, raised moulded OG pannels, for medal- lions, 6¾ inches diameter	1	0	1	6	1	1	0
52.	38	Small OG funk pannels, for medallions, 6 inches square			1	6	2	17	0
52.	38	Small medallions, with beaded moulding, and a head in the center, 3¾ inches diameter	1	0		9	1	8	6
52.	2	Cast ornamented vases, with handles, festoons of drapery, flutes and spear, hulks, &c. 11½ inches long, 6 inches wide	4	0	10	6	1	1	0

Carried over £. 1007 18 2½

REMARKS.

Ribbands worked in stucco have usually been done close to the ground work. These referred to at Nos. 47, are executed with a deal of taste, and worked partly free by hand, therefore the common value of ribbands are no guide; and indeed, almost the whole of these ornamental works, with the curious and neat manner, that the several enriched cornices are finished, have no other standard or just criterion for their valuation, but the knowledge of their superior merit.

52. These 4 last articles should be particularly considered, and then let it be determined, whether the reduced prices can possibly pay the journeyman's labour.

Refer.	Fr. In. No.		Prices as reduced			Prices by		
			by Mr. Paine			Mr. Clarke		
			s. d.	l.	s. d.	l.	s. d.	
53.	5	Brought over Large cast roses, 1 foot 6 inches diameter, composed of 6 large ruffled leaves, and water leaves between, with leaves, &c. in the center, all pierced hollow, and put up separately -				1007	18	2½
n.	18	Fluted pateras, 6½ inches diameter, with a beaded moulding, and lion's head in center	2 0		2 6	5	5 0	
	142 6	Sup. of Ionic modillon cornice, 4 members enriched, cima ruffled leaf and husk pierced hollow—OG water leaf, ovolo acorn and water leaf—OG Gothic arch and flower with husk between, front of the block fluted and pateras on the soffits—No. 261 blocks - - -	2 6		3 0	21	7 6	
	20 c	Sup. of elliptical ditto - - -	3 0		4 0	4	0 0	
	61 c	In the Royal Antiquarian Library and Museum. Sup. of plain funk frame in ceiling - - -	4		8	2	0 8	
						Carried over £. 1042 16 4½		

[75]

R E M A R K S.

53. These 5 cast roses, 1 foot 6 inches diameter,
the fix master plaisterers have valued at 1l. 5s. each.

K 2

54. These

R E M A R K S.

54. These mouldings the fix master plaisterers have valued at 4*d.* and 6*d.* *per* foot run.

55. This enriched double Vitruvian scroll is valued by the fix master plaisterers at 2*s.* 9*d.* *per* foot run.

56. Messrs. Groome and Hillam, two ornament plaisterers, were paid for working those 8 flowers 2*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* exclusive of boy's attendance, &c. see the end of the bill. The fix master plaisterers have valued them at 8*s.* 6*d.* each—Mr. *Paine* at only 5*s.* which is upwards of 20*s.* less than their cost. How Sir *William* could tell me that none of the ornamental works were reduced, I much wonder at, as it is plainly seen this is not the only instance by many.

57. Surely

Reference	Ft. In.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine, and those annexed as reconsidered		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
<i>Brought over</i>									
		—the soffits of the corona enriched with a rose in a sunk coffer over every fourth bell flower, and a small OG pannel between	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	1066	12 2
			2	4	2	9	22	19	3
In the Hall to the Royal and Antiquarian Societies.									
57.	112 2	Sup. of Doric mutula bell block cornice, two members enriched, cavetto with flower and double husk pierced—ovolo egg and husk—fix bells in the front of the block, and four in the profile	2	4	2	6	14	0	5
	97 10	Run of architrave, 6½ inches girt, enriched with cima ruffled leaf and husk pierced	11	10	1	2	5	14	13
58.	396 0	Sup. of trowelled stucco on laths, in sunk pannels, with raised margins	4	3	5	5	8	5	0
o.	191 0	Run of stucco OG moulding, 1½ inch girt, to pannels		11½	4	4	3	3	8
p.	84 8	Run of stucco mouldings to large pannels, 4 inches girt		3½	6	6	2	2	4
Carried over							£. 1122	16	11½

R E M A R K S.

57. Surely Mr. *Paine* makes no difference in works being well, or ill done, but more particularly so, where the enrichments of each member of the several cornices are directly corresponding, and under each other; and these cornices were done so by Sir *William Chambers's* particular order, that is, flowers in a line above the middle of blocks, pines, dentils, bells &c regular, and alternately under and above, and corresponding to some principle enrichment? though I must say, this extra labour is in general thrown away, for there are very few persons, even those of judgment, (without its being particularly pointed out) would notice this nice and regular workmanship, and which 6d. per foot extra would not pay us for. But this does not appear to be at all considered by Mr. *Paine* in his valuation. The six master plaisterers have valued this Doric cornice at 3s. per foot superficial on that account; and so of the rest.

58. This same sort of work at the sides of the Anti Room, see No. 39, Mr. *Paine* has reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per foot superficial. With what propriety does he make a difference of one halfpenny here, so as to allow 4d? The six master plaisterers have valued this the same as there 5d.

o. The stucco mouldings at No. 40. being only 1 inch girt, Mr. *Paine* reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ This article is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch girt, and he allows only the same price. The master plaisterers value it at 4d.

p. If this moulding of 4 inches girt had been run in only setting stuff instead of stucco, it would have been worth more than the price allowed. The six master plaisterers value this at 6d. per foot run.

59. Sunk

Fr. In.

59.	39	6	Sup. of raised pannels in ceiling	-	-	-	19	9	6
59.	7	1	--- of funk pannels	-	-	-	3	6	6
59.	8	10	--- of circular funk pannels	-	-	-	5	10	8
59.	6	9	--- of funk fpandrel pannels	-	-	-	3	4	6
	115	4	--- of funk foffit on laths to 51 small pannels, with raised margins on ditto	-	-	-	8	13	0
	10	10	Sup. of elliptical foffit on laths	-	-	-	8	1	9
	20	7	--- of elliptical funk foffit, with raised margins	-	-	-	1	0	0
	110	5	--- of elliptical foffit of landing on laths, in No. 51 octagon, 32 fquare, 36 half, and 4 quarter funk pannels, with raised margins to ditto, 3½ inches, and 1¼ inches wide	-	-	-	16	11	3
60.	42	8	Sup. of trowelled ftucco on laths to funk fpandrel small pannels, with raised margins, part circular	-	-	-	1	15	6

Carried over £. 1152 18 0 $\frac{3}{4}$

R E M A R K S.

59. Sunk pannels and soffits in ceiling frames may very justly be considered as plain mouldings, they are worked in the same manner, and require as much time, materials, and abilities; and why should the price differ? The method Sir *William's* clerks took in measuring them was uncustomary and unfair. The quantities of this article in general is small, and very often not above 6 or 8 inches face; but should they be pannelled, there is a material difference, and the value set on them should be proportioned to the number of pannels; which does not appear in the least to be considered so by Mr. *Paine*. The workman would consider the addition of the number of angles put to in one foot, with the additional labour in cleaning the whole off, from the consequence of its being pannelled.

These four first articles at 59, at the reduced charge, will not pay for the labour only.

The article of 110 feet 5 inches of elliptical soffit, with octagon, &c. pannels, and raised margins, (between No. 59 and 60 — see opposite side) is reduced by Mr. *Paine* to 1s. 6d. *per* foot superficial. Surely this is not considered as its just value! for that plaisterer is scarcely to be found who could do one single foot in a day complete, taking it from the lathing.

60. Compare this with the pannelled stucco and margins to sides of Anti Room—see 39. With what proportion are those reduced prices considered? The great guide to the reducer appears in this, as well as in the several other articles—the master's charge, from which something must be taken, whether reasonably so or not.

Ft. In.	Brought over		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine, and those annexed as reconsidered		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
			d.	4d.	d.				
q.	36	Sup. of raised margins	-	-	-	6	115	18	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
	24	Run of raised elliptical ditto, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches girt	-	-	-	6	18	3	
	44	Sup. of plain frieze	-	-	-	4	12	4	
	48	--- of circular ditto	-	-	-	5	14	11	
	24	Run of O G mouldings, 1 inch girt, in 63 small pannels	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	4	1	0	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
r.	24	Run of elliptical ditto, in 12 pannels	4	-	-	5	4	0	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
	110	--- of ovolo moulding, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch girt, in No. 32 square pannels, 36 half ditto, and 4 quarter ditto, in elliptical soffits	4	-	-	6	2	15	3
	178	Run of O G moulding, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch girt, in No. 51 octagon pannels, to elliptical soffits, in 408 lengths	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	6	4	9	3
63.	15	Run of stucco ovolo moulding, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch girt	-	-	-	4	5	2	
	11	Run of stucco elliptical ditto, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch girt	-	-	-	6	5	5	7
	62	--- of plain mouldings, 2 inches girt	-	-	-	3	15	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	49	--- of ditto 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches girt, in short lengths	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	6	1	4	11
	41	--- of circular ditto	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	8	1	7	8
Carried over							117	17	10 $\frac{1}{4}$

REMARKS.

q. Compare this article with No. 8, reduced to 1d. Here Mr. Paine allows $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ The fix master plaisterers value it at 5d.

r. This elliptical article the fix master plaisterers value at 7d. per foot run.

61 and 62 are valued by the fix master plaisterers at 6d. per foot run each.

62. This $\frac{1}{2}d.$ appears to be taken off, because something must be curtailed; but I cannot help saying it is done so, without either reason or propriety.

63. Why these stucco mouldings, of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch girt, should be allowed by Mr. Paine at 3d. and those in the side of the hall, see the same girt at only $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ I cannot see. It appears that a proportionate consideration is much wanting, and that these prices have in general been reduced at random.

Refer.	Ft. In.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
			d.	s.	d.	s.			
64.	57	5	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3		11	17	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	
							14	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	11	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$			4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	23	11	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4			7	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	
	68	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4		1	2	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	89	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5		1	17	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	
65.	21	10	6	7			12	9	
	41	8	7	8		1	7	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	25	4	11	10		1	5	4	
	66	7	9	10		2	15	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	

Carried over £. 1182 6 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

REMARKS.

64. This is a curious piece of business to take off one farthing! but I would ask *Mr. Paine*, with what propriety? — the measure was squeezed to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

65. From the price allowed by *Mr. Paine* for small mouldings which are elliptical, it plainly appears he cannot be acquainted with the several preparations necessary to work them, as in this article of 41 feet 8 inches, in three separate ellipsis 7 inches girt. If it had been only straight, and in three separate pannels, a workman would have considered it worth more than the price reduced to. Upon the whole, it is plain, that it is imagined the plaisterers have too large a profit, and, right or wrong, every valuation hitherto allowed reasonable, must be curtailed. The fix master plaisterers have valued this article at 1s. *per* foot, on account of there being three separate ellipsis in so small a quantity, *Mr. Paine's* reduced price only 7d.

66. Com-

Here Mr. Paine makes no difference in price between 7 1/4 inches and 8 3/4 inches. Reference

Ft. In.	Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine	Prices by Mr. Clarke	l.	s.	d.
52	8		1182	6	1 1/4
<i>Brought over</i>					
		11	1	1	2 17 0 3/4
54	9				
		1	2	1	3
					8 5 1/2
26	11				
		1	2	1	4
					1 15 10 3/4
33	9				
		1	6	1	8
					2 16 3
12	2				
		1	4	1	6
					18 3
17	0				

Carried over £. 1197 7 6 1/4

Reference	Ft. In.	Description	Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke		l.	s.	d.
			s.	d.	s.	d.			
		<i>Brought over</i>					11	9	7
		block with water leaf—ovolo with acorn and							6
		leaf between—soffits of corona with running	2	4	2	9	4	9	4
		hulks, and patera on the soffits of the modillion							1
	41 9	Sup. of circular ditto	2	10	3	6	7	6	1
	17 6	---- of cornice, three members enriched, cavetto							1
		with star flower and ruffled leaf and husk pierced							1
		hollow—ovolo egg and husk, and O G ruffled	1	10	2	0	1	15	0
		leaf and husk, to door caps							
	10 10	Sup. of raking circular cornice, three members en-							
		riched, to pediments over windows, same as the							
		last			4	0	2	3	4
	11 5	Sup. of circular cornice to level bed, three mem-							
		bers enriched, ovolo, egg and husk, and O G	2	0	2	0	1	2	10
		ruffled leaf and husk							
	2 6	Of enriched cavetto moulding to returns, $2\frac{3}{4}$ in-							
		ches girt, with a star flower and ruffled leaf and			1	0		2	6
		husk pierced							
	23 9	Run of cast gulofs, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches face, with bead and							
		space on each side	1	0	1	0	1	3	9
Carried over							12	15	10
									5

These articles, with the 4 trusses at 69, Mr. Paine has allowed £1. 5s.

REMARKS.

66. Compare this with the enriched frame of honey-suckles to the Anti Room ceiling—see 31. This being richer, and so many more interfections, requires consequently more time in executing, which must certainly make it of more value; *Mr. Paine* makes no difference.

s. N. B. These enriched strings were all sharpened and undercut, and worked up with carver's tools, and a great deal of care and time was bestowed to finish them in a neat and curious manner.

Refer.	Ft. In.	No.		Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine	Prices by Mr. Clarke	l.	s.	d.
67.	57	5	Run of ornaments wrought by hand, consisting of laurel leaves and berries, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch projection.	2 3	2 9	1273	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
			N.B. Mr. Paine has introduced the 12 ties of ribbands at 67, page 92, with the last reduced price.					
	9	10	Run of laurel leaves and berries in 2 branches, wrought by hand, 7 inches wide on a mean, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch projection					
			Run of very rich festoons of flowers wrought by hand, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide on a mean, and 2 inches projection, very neat	4 0 0	4 3	2	1	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	12	6	Garlands of flowers, very rich, wrought by hand, 1 foot $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, 3 inches wide, and $1\frac{3}{4}$ projection	5 0 0	7 6	4	13	9
		2	Pieces of foliage ornaments, wrought by hand, between roses, 11 inches long, 5 inches wide on a mean, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch projection		1 10 0	3	0	0
		2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ties of ribbands, 1 foot 1 inch long, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide	1 6	2 6			5 0
		2	Ditto, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 3 inches wide	1 0	2 0			4 0
Carried over						£. 1291	17	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

There 2 garlands, with the branches of laurel leaves at 68, allowed at 21. 10s. each.

REMARKS.

67. The ornament hands were paid 6*l.* 5*s.* for working these laurel leaves and berries, and 12 small ties of ribbands, beside labourer, boy, and materials. Mr. Paine allows 6*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* which is less than the cost. See the particulars at the end of the bill.

68. The ornament plaisterers were paid for working the 9 feet 10 inches of laurel leaves and berries, the 12 feet 6 inches festoons of flowers, and No. 2 garlands of flowers, 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* exclusive of labourer and boy's time, and materials. Mr. Paine allows 9*l.* which is about 6*s.* less than the cost. See the particulars at the end of the bill.

t. To justify the equity of my prices charged to this and the several other articles, at which I have made no particular remarks, I appeal to the small sum, between the prime cost of the whole works, and the total of my bill, and which no master plaisterer would have undertaken at so little profit.

Refer.	No.	Description	Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine		Prices by Mr. Clarke	
			s.	d.	s.	d.
67.	12	Smaller ties of ribbands, by hand			129	17 9½
		An antique mask on a stucco key stone in center of the attic landing, with drapery to ditto, and flower in the soffit, 5½ and 3½ inches diameter		8		0
69.	4	Cast ornamented plaster trusses to windows, 9 inches high, 6½ inches wide, the front enriched with ruffled leaf between the mouldings, and the profile with scroll flowers and husks			3	3 0
		Six-leaved cast roses, 1 foot 6 inches diameter, with acorns between, and small flower in the center	10	6	2	2 0
70.	2	Cast 8-leaved roses, 7¾ inches diameter, composed of water leaves and husks			18	0 1 16 0
	10	Flowers 5 inches square, in elliptical soffits of attic landing, making 51 inches, 32 square, 36 half, and 4 quarter sunk pannels	3	6	1	15 0
71.	51	Pateras fluted, with beaded moulding, and lion's head in center	2	3	6	7 6
	24	Sets of cast pines, containing 7 in a set, 9 inches wide, and 1¼ inches high	1	6	3	0 0
	16		1	2	1	4 0
Carried over					£. 1311	13 3½

R E M A R K S.

69. N. B. The time only in modelling for these truffles came to 19s. exclusive of materials, making moulds, &c.

70. This article is valued by the fix master plaisterers at 1/. 1s. each.

71. This patera, though reduced here by Mr. Paine at 1s. 6d. is allowed by him in the Royal Society's Library and Museum (see *k.*) at 2s. and in the Antiquarian Society's Meeting Room (see *n.*) at the same price.

72. Mr.

References

DAY WORK,

In several alterations to ceilings and cornices, &c. and repairs after the different workmen, throughout the building — making good after joiners to plaistering broke by them in fitting up their architraves to doors and windows, skirtings, chimney pieces, &c. — Erecting and striking scaffold to the sky light only in the grand staircase, and ditto in the anti room for the figure painters — making good stucco, &c. at sundry times throughout the different staircases, stopping after bell-hangers, and various other jobs.

l. s. d.
13 11 13 3 ½

Brought over

72.	83 ¼ Days of plaisterers	-	-	-	-	28 ½ at 3s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	14 11 4 ½
u.	11 ¾ Days of ornament plaisterers	-	-	-	-	54 ¾ at 3 0	6 0	3 10 6
72.	34 ¼ Days of labourers	-	-	-	-	9 at 2s. 3d.	2 3	3 17 0 ¾
		-	-	-	-	25 ¼ at 2 0		
72.	52 ¾ Days of boys	-	-	-	-	22 ¾ at 1s. 3d.	1 3	3 5 11 ¼
		-	-	-	-	30 at 1 0	8	2 11 4
	77 Hods of coarse lime and hair	-	-	-	-		1 0	15 3
	15 ¼ Hods of fine ditto	-	-	-	-			

Carried over £. 1340 4 9

REMARKS.

72. Mr. *Paine* has thought proper to reduce the price of the workmen's wages for the winter half year. Now I do appeal to any confiderate perfon, whether we ought not to be allowed my charge, when he is fairly acquainted we pay the journeymen the fummer half year 18s. *per* week; winter ditto, 16s. 2. The ornament plaifterer, *per* day, 6s. and 5s. all the year; Labourer 12s. fummer, and 11s. the winter, Boy 6s. and 5s. *per* week all the year. Confider, we pay ready money, and give (too often) very long credit—in this bill notoriously fo. What reafon then, can there be for reducing our charge in thefe articles?

u. In this article of ornament plaifterers a great part of the time was in alterations, &c. and done by Mr. *Collins's* workmen, for which I paid 7s. *per* day, nevertheless I am allowed here only 6s.

73. This

References		Brought over	Prices as reduced by Mr. Paine	Prices as reduced by Mr. Clarke	l.	s.	d.
	6½ Hods of running stuff	-	-	10	1340	4	9
	4½ Hods of finishing	-	-	1	5	5	9
	5 Hods of putty	-	-	2	10	0	0
	4 Cakes of ornament stucco	-	-	2	8	0	0
	5½ Bundles of laths	-	-	1	3	6	10½
	3¼ Thousand nails	-	-	1	6	4	10½
	6 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 lb. of prepared plaister	-	-	8	0	2	12
73.	19 cwt. of ditto used in the Royal Societies Library and Museum to gage the ceiling and cove, by Sir William's order	-	-	8	0	7	12
73.	Mr. Paine took off from this last article 4 cwt. 3 qrs. of plaister	-	-			1352	11
74.	N.B. According to these reduced prices, it appears that 19 l. 2s. is taken off, which reduces the whole to 116 l. 9s. 3d. and the military exercise bill is totally rejected.	-	-				3
74.	And since the above reduction, Mr. Paine has thought proper to reconsider these prices a second time, and has accordingly made a small addition to some of the articles as you see annexed to the prices first reduced, which increases the sum 9l. 10s. 3¼d. producing upon the whole a reduction of 18 l. 11s. 8¼d. consequently reduces the bill to	-	-			1170	19
		-	-				6¾

R E M A R K S.

73. This article of prepared plaister is taken off, upon pretence that a less quantity of coarse lime and hair was used. Now I submit this to the judgment of any who is acquainted with the nature of this business, whether the workmen who are floating the ceiling, do not lose more time in waiting for the stuff's gaging, (and which cannot be prevented) than is equivalent for this pretence?—beside they cannot float so much, nor set the work with the same expedition: and I would likewise refer to judgment, whether the prepared plaister does not cause some of the water to evaporate, as well as absorb the rest in such a manner, so as to make little difference in the quantity of lime and hair necessary to be used about such ceilings?

74. And to shew (beside these remarks that we have made upon the several articles) the further injustice of these reduced prices, we have taken out of our books the prime cost of doing the whole of this business, as sworn to before a magistrate, see a few pages further, which amounts to 1094*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* exclusive of some other expences, which could not be exactly sworn to; but, upon a moderate computation, the whole cost is little less than 1200*l.*

The amount of the bill, according to the six master plaisterers' valuation, is near 1370*l.* almost 20*l.* more than my charge.

The reason why there appears so little profit, has been particularly set forth in the introduction.

Particulars of the Ornament Plaisterers' Time to the several Articles as mentioned in the Bill.

In the Anti Room.

To the 38 feet 4 inches of laurel leaves and berries, 12 pieces of fan ornaments, 12 pieces of double hufks, and the 12 ties of ribbands.

Messrs.	Coney	-	-	-	-	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Days
Watling	-	-	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
John Hillam	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
James Hillam	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Lock	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Groome	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Coney	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

Materials, labourer and boys time - - - - -

To the 28 feet of ornaments in 16 pilaster pannels to cove, and fixing 16 cast vases in ditto (which Mr. Collins was paid 3s. a piece for).

John Hillam	-	-	-	-	-	6 Days
						Carried forward

s.	l.	s.	d.
5	17	6	
7	3	6	
5	1	10	0
3	12	0	
5	8	9	
5	6	3	
5	13	9	
4	11	9	
1	3	7	
Tot.	5	15	4
	1	10	0

1779.

March 20
27

See page 59. No. 32.

March 6

1779.

March 6

13

20

See page 59. No. 33.

Messrs. James Hillam
Ditto
John Hillam
Ditto
James Hillam

Brought forward
6 Days
6
6
6
6
6

Materials, labourer and boys time, with the 16 vases -

Sides in Anti Room.

To working the ornaments to the 16 pilaster pannels.

May 1

8

15

22

Messrs. John Powell
Watling
Henry Hebbard
Powell
John Hillam
Richard Croome
Hebbard
John Powell
Richard Groome
Hillam

Days
 $3\frac{1}{2}$
 $\frac{1}{2}$
6
4
 $5\frac{1}{2}$
 $5\frac{1}{2}$
6
6
6
6

s.	l.	s.	d.
3	1	10	0
3		18	0
5		18	0
5	1	10	0
5	1	10	0
3		18	0
	7	4	0
	3	16	0
Tot.	11	0	0
5	17	6	6
7		3	6
5	1	10	0
5	1	1	3
5	1	7	6
5	1	7	6
5	1	10	0
5	1	10	0
5	1	10	0
5	1	10	0
5	1	10	0
Carried over			£. 12 7 3

N 2

		Pannels fides of Anti Room continued.										Brought forward			
												Days			

1779.	Pannels fides of Anti Room continued.	Brought forward	s.	l.	s.	d.
July 3	Messrs. John Hillam	-	5	39	2	3
	Hebberd	-		1	10	0
	Powell	-		1	10	0
	Mac Glasfan	-		1	10	0
10	John Hillam	-		1	10	0
	Hebberd	-		1	8	9
	John Powell	-		1	7	6
	Mac Glasfan	-			5	0
17	John Hillam	-		1	0	0
	Henry Hebberd	-		1	10	0
	Powell	-		1	7	6
24	Hebberd	-		1	10	0
	Powell	-			15	0
31	Hebberd	-			18	9
	The above is exclusive of Percy, a plaisterer's time in running the 24 ovals to the 6 large pannels: add to which, materials, labourer and boys time			56	14	9
				7	0	3
				Tot. 63 15 0		

In the Antiquarian Societies Meeting Room.

To the 39 feet 6 inches of ivy leaves and berries, the 12 and 2 bows of ribbands, the 12 pieces of ribbands, and 6 small links of chain.

[illegible]

1779.

March 27

April 3

10

17

May 1

See page 71. No. 51. See page 71. No. 48.

[illegible]

In the Royal Antiquarian Library and Museum.

Time to the 8 rofes in ceiling frame.

In the Royal Antiquarian Library and Museum.									
Time to the 8 roses in ceiling frame.									
1779.	May 8	Messrs. Richard Groome	-	-	-	-	-	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ Days	
		John Hillam	-	-	-	-	-	6	
	15	Ditto	-	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	
		Groome	-	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	
									Tot.
									2 18 9

In the Grand Staircase.

To the 57 ft. 5 in. of laurel leaves, and the 12 small ties of ribbands.

Oct. 13	Messrs. John Hillam	-	-	-	-	-	6 Days	5	1	10	0
	Richard Groome	-	-	-	-	-	-		15	0	
20	Ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-		1	10	0
	John Hillam	-	-	-	-	-	-		1	10	0
27	Ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-		10	0	
	Richard Groome	-	-	-	-	-	-		10	0	
Materials, labourer and boys time									6	5	0
									1	1	0

See page 91. No. 67.

Total £. 7 6 0

In the Grand Staircase; continued.

To the 9 feet 10 inches of laurel leaves and berries, the 12 feet 6 inches of flowers, and 2 garlands of flowers.

1779.

Oct. 9

Messrs. John Hillam

Henry Hebbard

John Hillam

Henry Hebbard

John Hillam

Henry Hebbard

John Hillam

16

23

30

1 Day

6

6

6

6

6

$\frac{1}{2}$

l. s. d.

5 0 0

1 10 0

1 10 0

1 10 0

1 10 0

1 10 0

2 6 6

7 17 6

1 9 3

Total.

0

£. 9 6 9

Materials, labourer and boys time

l. s. d.
1094 10 8

The sum of prime cost, (to which the affidavit is made) as taken from Messrs. Thomas Clark and Charles Clarke's books - - - - -

Befide the following :

To Messrs. Thomas Clark and Charles Clarke's time and attendance in conducting the jobb - - - - -
Mr. George Pepper, copying drawings, and other business at the accounting-house, relating to this jobb - - - - -
Mr. Thomas Palmer, clerk, his time and attendance on the workmen, and business at the accounting-house - - - - -
Mr. Thomas Vekins, another clerk, writing in the accounting-house, &c, upon this business - - - - -

N. B. The jobb was began in October 1778, and finished in December 1780.

A great quantity of wax for moulds, at 2s. per lb, was used in this jobb; but as a great part may turn to use again, nothing is charged, though the waste must have been considerable - - - - -

Use and waste of scaffold - - - - -

Interest

Interest on Money laid out, being between eight and nine hundred pounds, before any was received, and then only 400*l.* with a deduction of 10*l.* &c. — Particulars }
 may be seen in the book of prime cost - - - - - }
 To all which, as the sum cannot be particularly ascertained, so as to make oath, we have omitted adding any further charge to the sum of 1094*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* but do believe, upon a moderate computation, the whole cost cannot be less than 1200*l.* — how unjust then, must it be, to reduce our bill to a less sum than the cost?

The following is the Copy of Oath taken before one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace.

" GEORGE PEPPER, of *New Tothil-Street*, Plaisterer, maketh Oath, and saith, that the foregoing account of Prime cost, the greatest part of which was regularly kept by him this deponent, " and entered into Messrs. *Thomas Clark* and *Charles Clarke*'s books at the time the business was " doing; and the account this deponent has taken out as before set forth, this deponent doth believe, to the best of his knowledge, every article is just and correct; and this deponent was " employed about the said work.

GEORGE PEPPER."

Sworn at *Westminster* the 28th of Nov. 1782, before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace for the City and Liberty of *Westminster*,

GEORGE STUBBS.

F I N I S.

